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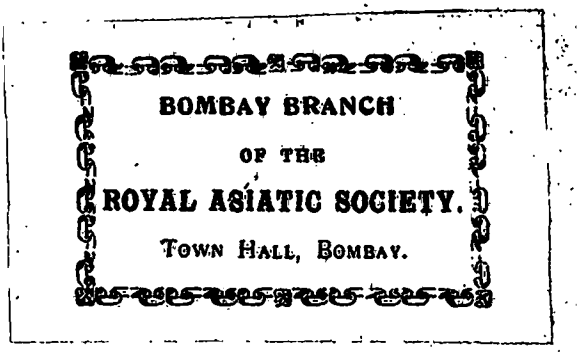

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CAMP AT DRIED BEEF CREEK.

REMINISCENCES

OF

AUSTRALIA,

WITH

HINTS ON THE SQUATTER'S LIFE.

BY

CHRISTOPHER PEMBERTON HODGSON.

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LONDON:

W. N. WRIGHT, 60, PALL MALL.

SIMPKIN AND MARSHALL, STATIONERS COURT,

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TO

ROBERT LYND, Esq.

AND

MY BROTHER SQUATTERS

IN AUSTRALIA,

THESE FEW PAGES

DESCRIPTIVE OF FAMILIAR OCCURRENCES,

ARE

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY

THE AUTHOR.

LONDON: PRINTED BY W. NICOL, 60, PALL MALL.

TO THE READER.

THESE few pages, originally written for my own amusement, are now presented to you, not from any sense of their merit; but with a hope that some useful hints may be gleaned to the future Emigrant's advantage.

As it would be an unheard of circumstance for a traveller, who has doubled both Capes, who has passed over places scarce known unto men, not to favour "the world" with an account of what he has met with, I shall — to use a colonial expression, "chance it," and trust myself to your mercy.

If you meet with any peculiarities, which

may sound uncouth, or strange; be pleased to remember that, though I have often been in the presence of *Royalty*, the courts I have visited were only composed of savages, and blackfellows; and that, had it not been for my anxiety to oblige you, I should have tarried awhile to re-arrange my scattered reminiscences of Australia, amid the elegancies of my earlier home.

Since these few pages were sent to the press,—I may say within the last ten days —news has been received of the successful termination to Dr. Leichhardt's expedition, after a most fatiguing and dreary march of sixteen months, and a series of hardships and privations rarely equalled. My old comrade (Mr. Gilbert) has fallen a victim to the murderous spear of the Natives! A nobler or more enterprising fellow never breathed. The remainder of the party arrived at Port Essington last December.

HINTS, &c.

On the 31st of October, 1845, we took a pilot on board the barque Cashmere, bound from Sydney for Old England, it being illegal to make our exit without his guidance. The custom-house officers met us at Pinchgut; and after mustering all hands aft, each separately had to answer his name, while other emissaries were despatched to dive their swords into any thing suspicious, thereby making any one attempting an escape to sing out for safety and for succour.

After this unpleasant gentleman's departure, no one is allowed to quit or board the vessel under a severe penalty. This necessary precaution is to render escape difficult; notwithstanding which convicts, and men involved in debt, have eluded their utmost vigilance. A celebrated character in Sydney, after having aided and abetted his master's escape, endeavoured to do likewise,

and headed up in a porter cask was stowed snugly away; but some singular and unusual air-holes awakened suspicion, and the pursuading poke of a sword awakened the cries of a man, who was first exposed to the ridicule and laughter of all on board, and then to the fury of his creditors.

A light wind carried us along the beautiful Cove, whose romantic, rocky and gently sloping ranges form a magnificent background to a succession of secure and picturesque little bays, which, with the beautiful expanse of water, studded with several small islands and innumerable little skiffs, is the only sight that repays the exile for his visit to Sydney.

Farewell Sydney! thy climate is thy sole recommendation; thy want of water, uncertainty of seasons, thy barren wastes and sandy deserts, thy bar-harbours and coral reefs are but natural enemies. Thou hast a far more grievous one in thyself; thy hospitality only to deceive, thy avarice, thy cunning and plausible delight in deceiving the unsuspecting, thy evident recklessness of being considered a rogue, are but the

true characteristics of thy inhabitants. What is the answer to these charges? I will repeat one I actually heard from a wealthy and arrogant grandee; "I came out here with the sole desire of accumulating riches; I left all for one grand object; and, as long as I am gaining my end, I pay little regard to the means of attaining it." This is Sydney! — this is the land colonized by men imbued with English feelings, and educated with English ideas of justice and right! — This is the land to which the honourable merchant of England consigns his costly cargoes, and, did he know the full amount of practised villany, he would blush at the idea of such a connexion.

But the wily man of business assumes a double face; to keep up his credit at home he sacrifices all, indiscriminately, out here to his deceit, and, by prompt and punctual returns, convinces the English merchant that he must be an exception to the general rule, and is, accordingly, invested with the means of repeating his former line of conduct on an improved scale.

To say there are not many honourable

men out in Australia would be false indeed. Amidst every desert some oasis is found, and we turn with pleasure to regale ourselves with a view of this rare prospect. Squatters,* who are generally allowed to be the aristocracy of the colony, — the unfortunate victims of merchant, tradesman, and labourer, have the still small voice of conscience always at hand to advise them, and seldom do they err. The knowledge of their being a superior caste, their pride being to act after that knowledge, though their aim is the same, are the general principles on which they take their stand. At the present moment they are about to be crushed by an inevitable and unexpected blow. It is not enough that they are victimized by three classes of society; another, which has, by the voice of its director, admitted their superiority, and which might have spared them yet a little longer, pounces with fury on their hard earned and ever doubtful profits, and, instead of helping the drowning man as he is rising for the last time, gives him a sudden push, which nought but the special interposition of Providence

can enable him to recover from. Poor mortal! knowing the life you have to lead, the difficulties, privations, hardships, absence of all society, where scarcely ever the sweet smile of woman is seen, or the merry voice of children heard, as a brother squatter, I can condole with you, and wish you a happy escape from all your dangers. Cease thy iron rule, mother England; spare thy rising progeny yet awhile; let the immigration be sufficient for the increase of stock; let the rate of wages be determined by the steady influx of labour, and then you may be doing a kindness, while at present you only add oil to the fire.

Many a fine fellow, educated at the first establishments in England, nursed in every luxury, and endowed with the noblest principles, under false hopes raised by falser representations, has been seduced from the endearments of home, from the gentle love of an affectionate parent, or the soft smiles of a doting sister, to undergo a temporary exile preparatory to the gaining of an imaginary independence. Poor deluded

man! how quickly changed are your hopes! Would you have left those happy scenes, that boyhood's home, the land where thy fathers dwelt, had the future been spread before you? How pleasant was thy passage out! with what rapture did you behold the shores of Africa, or the remote isles of St. Pauls and Amsterdam! and with what indescribable surprise did the magnificent harbour of Sydney burst upon you. The flag of England floated on many a mast and blazoned on the batteries. The City surpassed your expectations; the solitary spire of St. James seemed a presiding genius, and the first impression, generally most lasting, was favourable. But the skiff is alongside, it glides through the busy Cove, it reaches the stairs, and one glance dictates and cannot fail to recal that beautiful line, "How quickly fade our fairy dreams." An assemblage of dirty, half drunk, half clad beings pounce upon you, offering to ease you of the trouble of being your own porter; fearful to give offence, you accept their proffered services, and with rapid stride and rubicund countenance, the envy

of the pale-faced Sydney swell, you direct your guide to Petty's Hotel. Having satisfied your hunger with the delicacies of the season, and impressed with the idea that something good is to be obtained in the eatable line, you walk out to lionize. Gentlemen in straw hats, as broad as imagination could fancy, in paramatta coats and corduroy inexpressibles, in the tip-top of fashion and perfection, form an elegant medley, and blended indiscriminately with the descriptive costumes of convict, police, bullock-driver, sailor, soldier, &c., they excite admiration by their unwonted variety.

A continued stroll takes you along George Street, the houses of which are regular, and chiefly the property of respectable tradesmen: at every corner of the cross streets, which intersect it at right angles, the badge of freedom, in the shape of a black pipe, is seen projecting from between the mustachoed lip and grizzly beard of its proprietor, and the easy air with which the smoker smokes reminds you forcibly of our national line, "Britons never, never, will be slaves," unless it be to their own propensi-

ties and desires. In elegant disorder, and at stated distances, on either side, appear sundry public carriages, exported originally for private use and the benefit of the aristocracy, but which, by a concatenation of events and the depression of the times, have descended to the humiliating position of being "licensed vehicles." A sigh would naturally escape from any man when contemplating this vicissitude of fortune, but whether one of pity or not depends much on the feelings of the contemplater. On mine, hard-hearted man, they came not with overwhelming regret; a smile curled on the lip, when I knew that many of the fair ladies, they were originally destined to convey, had in their day been glad to walk unshackled and free, — when the most dashing equipment was proved to be that of a doubly convicted felon. I could not sigh over the ruins, and had Marius been alive his susceptible heart would not have given way to those tender emotions, to which the sight of the ruins of Carthage are said to have given rise. The length of the street, the brilliant display in the stores,

the Macadamised road, the total absence of beggars, the elastic step, the consequential yet rather impudent air, the varied dress of the majority of the passers by, are quickly remarked: the eager walk, the knocking you-down pace, the calculating eye, the serious and long face are all subjects of study. This motley group and variety of circumstances, perhaps unexpected, leave you in doubt whether or not your walk down George Street has given you a pleasant impression or otherwise; for while there is abundant room for admiration, there still seems much ground for merriment and ridicule.

I arrived in Sydney early in 1840, and was welcomed by the smiling face of a brother and some few friends, who pulled out to meet the vessel, the arrival of which with its name had been previously telegraphed; Not every one can meet with one friendly grasp on his arrival, not every one can feel that he has to give a long account of home and home's associations to a greedy and anxious ear; therefore not every one can land so contented as I did.

After a four months voyage, in a limited prison, any thing new is exciting, and I can well remember the glee with which I once again set my foot on terrâ firmâ.

Having satisfied the natural enquiries of an affectionate son and fond brother, as to the welfare of those at the "auld manse at hame," I sallied forth to stretch my legs. Contiguous to the City, and commanding an extensive view of the Cove and its romantic boundaries, is a beautiful lawn, the usual promenade of its inhabitants. Here the band plays, and here the gay, the thoughtless and free, the fashionable and unpretending, enjoy a delightful walk: proceeding down this, which is styled the "government demesne," you enter a scene which is wonderfully striking from the grandeur of its trees, the beauty of its arrangement and the glorious diversity of the gorgeous colours presented to the view.

The plants I remembered as rare, and only seen in the the hot-houses of the wealthy at home, are here growing luxuriantly. The air was one delicious perfume, and the assertion that flowers in Australia were

inodorous, I soon proved to be without foundation; every plant that the tropics, or the sunny clime of the east could boast, were mingled with the beauties of America, or the specimens of my own native land. Nature appeared to have concentrated her riches and rarities to this spot, and the spirit of science and enterprize to have exerted their powers to render it a second paradise. A gently flowing streamlet intersected the gardens, and emptying itself into an artificial reservoir surrounded by the elegant branches of the drooping willow, sheltered the monument of one who died a martyr to his love of Nature. (Mr. Cunningham.[b]) Meet resting place for him whose home was midst the flowers and the forest! and who might perhaps be watching in spirit over what he so dearly loved when in the flesh! Presiding genius of this heavenly spot, may you be the solitary martyr to that science which I have too much cause to fear has robbed Australia of another ornament. (Dr. Leichardt.[c]) I well remember this myfirst walk into the Botanical Gardens; bounded by the echoing waves of the beauteous Cove

the green lawns extend, and under many a rocky arbour shaded by the broad leafed fig, or evergreen passion-flower, sat frequent admirers of love or nature. How suitable a spot for such holy, happy meetings! invigorated with feelings which such a scene must have awakened, ennobled by the sense of praise due to the Creator of such majesty, like our first parents in the fervour of mutual enthusiasm they must exclaim, "These are thy glorious works, parent of good," and blended with such reflections and heartfelt effusions — how enriched must be the love, how pure the devotion!

Sweet spot in Memory's waste I must fly on, in a little while to revisit you!

If, in these few pages written with the view of explaining the squatter's life, and the incidental occurrences that he has to meet with, I may be the means of deciding any one in his future career, I gain my object, and will now commence. Having been during the whole of my temporary exile in Australia, a regular bushman, wandering from place to place and associating with companions as rough as any—it

is to be expected that I have a predilection in favour of the life; I have,—for amidst all its dulness and monotony there are seasons of excitement and danger, scenes of novelty and grandeur, which will ever be be remembered — our frequent bivouacs, our hard labours, attending teams up the mountains, our constant skirmishes with the natives, our swimming rivers, and exploring new regions and the many comical incidents, which occur at the formation of a new station, will ever be subjects to crack the joke upon, and with which we may amuse our children on some future day, i. e. when we have any.

Seduced by flattering assertions, deluded by splendid misrepresentations, excited by hopes too soon to be crushed—the emigrant leaves his home. The more he has been told to expect, the more alluring the bait held out, so much the more he revels in thoughts of futurity: he pictures to himself an indigent family of which in a few years his romantic ideas have promised him to be the supporter, he glories in the hope of repaying the care of a fond parent,

who has perhaps deprived himself of luxuries to forward his son's welfare and happiness. He has sisters and brothers depending on his exertions, and his spirit is delighted with the prospect of providing for them. Perhaps he has plighted his vows to one whom poverty, that devil in disguise, has denied him the means of sustaining. He has heard of Australia, the land flowing with milk and honey, whose rivers roll o'er beds of gold, whose very mountains are of silver. A few years of banishment, of self-denial and hardship, and I am free! am invested with the means of doing what it will ever be my constant pride and reward hereafter to have done — I will leave all — and seek the promised land, but I will soon return and my friends and neighbours will rejoice. Such are the speculations of those that think! Such are the feelings which actuate their departure! To be deceived in the representation of any thing is in itself disheartening, and the consequences often a deathblow to all the excellent plans conceived; taught by that power, which pities me, I can pity you. Again, under no delu-

sions, without any correct idea of what they are to encounter, without any thought but the engrossing one, that money is to be made, and that it will be spent; that it will raise them from a low station of life to be the envy of their acquaintance; that they will be out of the reach of guardians, unkind relations, and at liberty to do as they like—a second species of emigrant quits his native land; these merit little compassion, they find their schemes frustrated and acknowledge too late that be it ever so humble there is no place like home, and no blessing of greater value than content. They sigh for a return when it is too late, and feel how friendless and desolate a money-making life, in a money-mad country is.

A third class on a lower scale, but very numerous, next come before us. Starvation looking him in the face, a bad character for idleness at home, a desire for change of scene, a recklessness of disposition, a love of independence and the prospect of doing better, prompt many a poor mechanic or labourer to seek another clime. They hear of Australia, they are referred to men of education

for an account of it; they read Dr. Lang's Manual and are delighted, they are contented with the report, and being bound to believe, what they have no means of contradicting or authority to doubt, they sail, and according to their several anticipations are more or less disgusted on their arrival.

This short picture will include the different varieties of those who emigrate to this fascinating country; and is it not a shame and a wilful neglect that there are not some true and faithful reports by which all might be guided? Far be it from me to deter any one from trying his fate; but were he to go out with his eyes open, and some real and true knowledge of what he is likely to meet with, then he would be better prepared to encounter his fate and bear up manfully against the evils he was fully aware of. On leaving England, you leave all that your earlier years have instinctively taught you to venerate and cherish; therefore it must be with zeal and enterprize that you prepare to engage in the future.

You are probably launched into the

world with the power of investing your earthly portion without the advice and control of others; you feel yourself a man, and desiring to "do all that doth become a man," may perhaps indulge in mistaken ideas of what is requisite to merit that title. You enter on a new life, and believe me, the game is difficult to play, the chances equal, and the result attended with the fearful alternative of misery or gratification, independence or poverty. Therefore be cautious, listen to all, but let conscience, let strict integrity be your guide, and then, "if you fall, you fall a happy man." You meet with new friends, you hear of new opinions, you meet with older heads than your own, be not entrapped by a misplaced confidence, or a too early reliance on those who win by oily and seducing language: rather let them talk on, and sooner or later you will discover symptoms of a lurking poison. Give thy thoughts no tongue, reserve thy judgments; and this slight control, without the necessity of its being made apparent, will be rewarded hereafter; you must forget all that is past and look forward to

the future as an epoch which is to be memorable in your life; you must eschew evil and learn to do good, you must banish pride, and with the spirit of independence at the same time be clothed with humility: No longer have you a parent's ear to confide your doubts or suspicions to; like a young bear your sorrows are all before you, no longer if you fail in making the grand stand, have you the open purse at hand to assist: No! the battle you have entered into must be fought bravely the assault resisted, and the enemy repulsed, The greater the trials, the more intricate and oppressive the dangers, the more merit is given if you conquer all.

Think not that you can command your passions at any moment; indulge not in the too often mooted idea, that after, having begun to squander your patrimony in riotous living, you can instantly check yourself. Believe me, *ce n'est que le premier pas qui coûte.* The intoxication and seducing influence which gains strength in its march is not so easily vanquished and forgotten. Begin, and you never know the end, till

too forcibly convinced; till you see your finances are reduced to that low ebb at which the participators of your revels deem it prudent to hold a consultation, and find it necessary to their cause to leave you to your own reflections and consequent sorrow.

Let the seeds of idleness and empty pleasure be sown before you leave home; if you have them still to get rid of, Australia is the worst field you can select. How many poor fellows has it been my lot to see reduced to earn a subsistence as shepherds or labourers! two sons of English baronets were, and I believe are at this moment in that humiliating condition. They have certainly exchanged their names, not to bring disgrace on their families: but imagine their state of mind, their feelings, their sense of shame and degradation, their remorse and bitter anguish, their past circumstances when not fallen, and their present misery! *Crimine ab uno disce omnia.* Take warning by the fate of those who trusted to themselves, and found they trusted to a rotten or too pliant reed.

On arrival it is customary to present your letters of introduction as soon as

possible, and, I must, with great pleasure, own that among the aristocracy of Sydney the greatest kindness and attention prevails. Invitations immediately pour in from all quarters, and it is your own fault if they are not repeated: a gentleman is always welcomed and valued, and you can never sigh for amusement if your debut has been successful. Your fame, manner, bearing, conversation and appearance are immediately canvassed and correctly reported, and every one is desirous of shewing you civility. Whatever may be the failings of these good folk in Sydney, they have one grand redeeming quality, hospitality. But, beware! I have known instances of its having been betrayed, not by gentlemen, but by those who are considered such, colonially speaking. I have heard of men who, after having plied their guests with cups of rosy wine, have extracted from them the amount of their funds, the state of their finances, and their powers of investing the same. "Well! there is no great sin in that!" No, but I have heard again of these men repeating their invitations so earnestly, so affectionate-

ly, and with such excellent good management, that after having convinced the unfortunate visitor by their ambiguous flattery, that no one has a sincerer interest in his welfare than themselves, they have been entrusted with the means of enriching themselves at the expense of the poor fellow, who has confided in them. I have heard of sheep and cattle being sold at most delightful prices, merely to repay the sum entrusted, or solely to accommodate the wishes of a friend, who soon finds out that "friendship is a hollow name," and that there is no remedy;— that, having bought experience at a dear rate, it is cheaper to pay for what he eats, than to buy stock after dinner at the tables of such kind, generous and disinterested individuals. As I said before, however, this style of man is an exception to the general rule, and by selecting proper acquaintances, it is easy to distinguish between reality and ideality, between mockery and honesty.

After the novelty of a little diversion, almost necessary to one who has been four months immured in a ship, has ceased to be

gratifying, you ought, from the advice received and the conversation listened to, during that time, to have made up your mind to leave Sydney, and if your life is to be that of a squatter, to have succeeded in obtaining an invitation into the country. It is easily obtained, and the inviter really thinks you are conferring an obligation on him by giving him your company. The squatter is a generous, open-hearted, free and easy kind of fellow, who, standing on no ceremony or form, when away from the scenes where they are requisite, desires his friend not to make himself uncomfortable or uneasy, but, following his example to make the best use of time and be content with the goods "the gods provide."

Therefore accept any invitation, considered desirable, without for a moment considering yourself under any obligation; for there is a kind of freemasonry, which precludes such an idea; and remember it may soon be your turn to act the same part, and give an asylum and "Bush" education to the "New Chum."[d]

Sydney is certainly a bustling, active

city; enlightened beyond its years, and wealthy beyond imagination; it has pious and good, honorable and excellent citizens; but, it is a den of iniquity, and cannot be too soon left, or too seldom revisited by young men. After a seclusion of twelve months in the bush, the young squatters come down for a little amusement and relaxation, and a hundred pounds is gone before they know where they are: — so avoid Sydney, as much as possible; and you avoid one of the dangers in your road to advancement and success.

The invitation accepted, you must set forth with some predetermined plan of action; bearing in mind that you are to finish an education, which only requires a little attention, to be soon perfected in. I have known men, who on arriving in the colony scarcely knew the distinction between a ewe and a wether, turn out the best managers and most successful sheep-farmers.

You are about to enter a new life, where sheep and cattle, horses, corn, wheat, tobacco, rains and droughts are nearly the sole topics of conversation. By a practical ob-

servation of what you hear discussed, by putting *your own* hand to the work, and seeing *how things are done,* in a very short time you are repaid for your patience and perseverance.

Equipped with a trusty horse, who is to be your companion and friend for many a weary mile, with saddle bags well filled, a blanket strapped across the bows of your saddle, a pair of hobbles for fastening your horse's legs at night, to check his natural love for roaming, and a good stock of Negrohead tobacco, you commence your bush career. Your heart beats with the spirit of enthusiasm, as at each step new objects and scenes present themselves. A temporary bivouac, to enjoy a sandwich and the refreshing luxury of a "Pot o' tea;" to smoke the delightful pipe under the shade of a gum tree, while your nag is permitted to ramble and crop a few mouthfuls of grass or take a drink of water, are perhaps the novelties in the first days' march. You are astonished at the scarcely marked roads, the boundless evergreen forests, the lethargy of their appearance, and though only on the verge

between civilization and barbarism, at the unexpected wildness. The ungainly color of the Eucalyptus leaf, bark, and branches; the wonderful size, girth and height of the trees, afford a curious mixture of ugliness and beauty; and the monotony of the day's ride, unless it be in peculiar situations strikes you forcibly, that it is not the country for an Artist to select his landscapes from.

Having allowed your friend, as the older "hand" [e] and therefore better skilled in bush eccentricities, to be your guide and chaperon, it turns out that you manage to arrive at the station, or house of some brother squatter, just as the hot dinner is being served up. Its savory smell is very agreeable to a man, who has ridden for eight hours in a hot sun; yet you cannot help being astonished at the coolness of your friend's behaviour. Taking off his saddle, without any invitation, he enters into the room and hastily attacks the display before him. You—lost in momentary wonder, pause to follow his example, imagining perhaps that he has gone to beg for a night's lodging. After a little pause, and no return, you think

it best to take off your saddle, and entering in, find that no ceremony was requisite, but that the simple introduction of "my friend" guarantees an hospitable reception; and your courtesy or modesty, your ignorance of Bush habits has been repaid by a cold dinner. But the glasses sparkle on the board, the merry song, the budget of news, enliven the evening and you retire to blanket and stretcher delighted with the first day's sojourn with a squatter. You have gained a bit of experience also; viz. never to stand on forms if you wish for a hot dinner; but if you prefer a cold one, be quite sure it will await your arrival.

A stretcher, which I have so often found to be the most comfortable bed in the world, is, from its simplicity, worthy of description; four upright posts, about 18 inches long, support two strong horizontal bars, 7 feet long; each of the two posts are united at their centre by an iron pin, and the bars morticed into them at a short distance from the head; a piece of strong canvass is then nailed to each side of the bars, and extended as far as the angle from

the centre of the posts will permit; thus the bushman's bedstead is constructed, and if broken, easily replaced. When more guests require beds than there are beds for them, the mattrass is removed from the stretcher and laid on the floor; its absence is scarely noticed, as the canvass is pliant and soft.

Aroused in the morning at sunrise your first object is to discover whether your horse is visible or not; for, unless the feed is adapted to the animal's taste and ideas, an unlucky fit of roaming allures him on 'till perhaps many a mile intervenes between the spot, where he was left overnight and where he is to be found in the morning.

On being discovered, the conviction of having behaved uncourteously dictates to his conscious ears an erect position, and, after a snort in token of recognition, he sets off as fast as a pair of fettered legs will enable him, laughing at the attempts of the pursuers, who, with bridles in hand, are not very good humouredly doing all in their power to circumvent him; at last they succeed, and a few hearty cuffs inflicted

with a heartier good will, in time, prove a wholesome preventive to a recurrence of such conduct.

A thorough good bush-horse, unless he is a regular deep old villain, will never stray out of sight, provided his master is kind and considerate; and, by a few friendly signs and proper attentions, proves that he has a careful regard for the dumb animal which is to convey him yet, many a long mile; some old horses, accustomed to an old master, will stand still on hearing the well known voice; some will even hobble to meet him: while if a stranger attempts to catch him, he will probably take it into his head "to give him a run for it."

The "new chum" is generally employed by a gentle hint in collecting the animals; and, as he must receive an initiation into the principles of a bush-education, it is but meet that the practical part of the business should fall to his share. Returned to the hut, he finds a substantial breakfast laid out; consisting of mutton hams, eggs, chops, bread and butter in profusion; and, when the meal is concluded, in comes the tobacco, and *out* goes the smoke.

Of course in different establishments there are different degrees of refinement; some still preserve old English habits; others again are content with any thing that is set before them: some prefer a plate and knife and fork, teapot and teacup, wheaten bread and comfort: others would not demean themselves by such an extensive and wanton display of unnecessary furniture, but seizing the lump of beef in one hand and the damper in the other, "fist it," [f] with all the appetite they were wont to enjoy at the tables of their fathers; proving the temporary falsity of the proverb, "*cælum non animum mutant qui trans mare currunt.*" A tin quart pot full of tea to be re-divided into a tin pint is quaffed with greater relish by some, than when the same liquid is presented to them in beautiful white china; but a gradual improvement is taking place in the domestic comforts of the squatter; tables are more generally seen than blocks, and chairs than boxes or chests; and it is a grateful and pleasing thought, that this improvement is owing to the arrival of *ladies* and respectable females, who by cir-

cumstances, and for economy are obliged to make the wilds a temporary residence; and to whom, old feelings of regard and respect for the sex prompt us to pay that attention they have been accustomed to demand and expect. It is generally paid with pleasure; and, as on their journey to their own homes, they are necessitated to rest at several huts, where bachelors alone are, gallantry and common civility would be sufficient inducements to make the reception as agreeable as possible; since the honor would be perhaps denied a second time, if such opportunities, for shewing how welcome their former visit was, were neglected. It is an event of great bustle and importance, and so it ought to be. Escorted by many a jolly squatter, from station to station, the cavalcade is received at each by its proprietor, not in shirt and trowsers, but in polished boots and "paramatta"[8] coat; with a courtly bow he assists his fair visitor to dismount, and after conducting her to the most retired room, and leaving her to the care of his maid servant, while the refreshing ablutions, etc. are performed, he returns to

entertain the rest, till the announcement is made that the lady is ready for dinner. All are happy; graced by such an unusual ornament mine host is all assiduity and attention, and, to use a colonial phrase, "thinks no small beer of himself:" the rough habits, too prevalent, are laid aside and as much decorum and propriety observed as could be expected in the drawing rooms of civilized and excellent society; proving that "what is bred in the bone will not come out of the flesh." Certainly men must smoke, i. e. *bushmen* must indulge in their luxurious habit, it being as natural to them as the chibouque to the Turk; and therefore after dinner a line is marked out, beyond which they may not pass till the grateful treat has been satisfactorily discussed. Yarns, jokes, neighbours' affairs, scandal and songs, alternately vary the evening's amusement; many a retrospective glance is directed to scenes of home and infancy, and if we may take the vivid recollections and the patriotic feelings of the squatters, as a sample of the exile's love for his country, the idea naturally forced upon the mind is, that old Britain is

more prized and beloved by its absentees, than by its richer and "stay-at-home-with-us" inhabitants. The lady requiring rest, retires early and leaves the company to praise her manifold charms and elegancies.

To proceed; after a few day's ride, the squatter and friend reach home, and the agreeable cry of "welcome, Sir, glad to see you safe," salutes your ear, and is not always said with the lips alone. You listen to the grievances, losses, returns and gains, that have been received during your friend's absence, and learn how necessary it is to be "*rebus angustis animosus atque fortis.*" The decrease of sheep, the outrages of blacks, the mixing of flocks, the absconding of servants, the scantiness of water, or want of pasture, are amongst the expected disagreeables: while, on the other hand, a favourable lambing, a prospect of good wheat and maize crops, and the opposites to the afore-mentioned disagreeables are more or less consolatory.

The apparent unconcern, with which these *pros* and *cons* are listened to, excite amazement; and when, after a series of recapitulated losses, you hear your friend shouting

out " what's the use of sighing, while time is on the wing;" " its a curious world we live in;" " better luck next time;" and such like effusions, you have learnt one lesson, viz. to endure patiently what cannot be remedied. But its bed-time, a snug little room is given you, under the sole stipulation that you retain its use as long as your convenience and views permit, and without further ceremony you are installed into the squatter's house. Early in the morning you sally out, desirous of being acquainted with the premises, improvements, &c.

In front appears a beautiful little plain, bound in by noble mountains and sloping ranges, a small creek or river meandering its way through it. Before the house, appears a nice little flower-garden; and, separated only by a paling fence, a more capacious and useful kitchen one; on the right is a large grass paddock for riding horses, milch cows and working bullocks; and a smaller one waving with twenty acres of Indian corn. On the left, a regular line of some four or five huts inhabited by the servants, a store for the protection of

supplies, a stable for the accommodation of a few nags, a milk-yard with pens for some half dozen calves, form a picturesque group. A little apart the strong built stock-yard, for the wild cattle running in the bush, and the well sheltered wool-shed are seen. The *toute ensemble* is engaging, and, to a "new chum," highly interesting, and were it not for the rudeness of the materials, which compose the different improvements, its resemblance to many English farms would not be disparaging to the credit of either.

The lowing herd glides slowly down the scene; and, slower still, a neighbouring flock of sheep, under the charge of no piping shepherd, but a rough bearded and rougher clad "old hand," crawl down the plain. Sunrise is the hour for commencing work, and each has his stated employment; with pipe in mouth you see the men plodding to their different occupations, and cannot help being astonished at the order and regularity the presence of a master procures over them, under scarcely any fear of punishment for idleness. Such is

the sketch of the first impressions; you see master and man arrayed in no other vestments, save shirt and handkerchief "*à la Byron*," and trousers supported round the waist by a scarf or belt; the only difference is, that the master's dress is scrupulously clean, while the men indulge in a change only at periodical intervals.

The beard and moustache are immediately allowed to grow, and much attention paid to the cultivation of those manly ornaments, the beauty and elegance of which often causes the fairer sex to wonder at their not being much more generally adopted and patronized. Surely 'tis a distinguishing brand 'twixt male and female; and by what law, save that foolish one of custom and fashion are beards forbidden? The Hebrews, a nation of God's own peculiar care, revelled in the enormity of that appendage. The Heathens and ancients had such regard for it, that any one who was in danger of his life had but to touch it, and he incurred the anger of Jove if he resisted the supplicant's entreaty. Our own forefathers rejoiced in the "grizzly beard and thick

moustache," and are we degenerate? The virtue of Samson's strength was contained in his vow of remaining unshorn; and shall modern Delilahs persuade us to give up our vigour to their fanciful ideas of elegance? No, rather let it be a crime to abuse our Maker's gift,—rather let every thing be lost before we resign our manly rights; and, until our lady-loves refuse to kiss us through such a rough barrier, (in which case alone, I admit, obedience is lawful, and perhaps to be forgiven,) remain as nature formed us.

This short apostrophe in favour of a trusty respected friend is dictated by an affectionate desire for its being revived; at the same time I would recommend all "beardies" who are addicted to large potations of soup and other liquids to be provided with a clean handkerchief to remove any superfluity that may adhere to their lips; for oftentimes a portion of what was originally intended for the gratification of the palate, and the alleviation of an hungry appetite, is left to flow on in an undisturbed stream, and waste its powers on the matted hair.

Comfort and ease are the general orders of the day, and in these warm yet beautiful climates, with the thermometer at 80° in the shade, and no restraint, it is not to be wondered at; "for who would fardels bear, to grunt and sweat" under such a life, if he could do without them? Who would put on a great coat when he found a plain, unstarched shirt more desirable? Whoever would, in my opinion, can have no regard for the first law of nature—self.

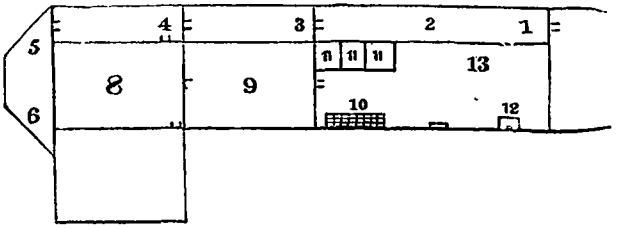
The Main Hut, on the Head Station, so called from its being the master's own residence, is of various sizes, in proportion to the number of the proprietors living there. For the accommodation of two, a hut, forty feet long by fourteen wide, and divided into one sitting-room, fourteen feet square, two bed-rooms, nine feet long each, and a smaller one of eight feet, is sufficient; added to which, on three sides perhaps, are little sloping rooms, which will answer well for pantry, store-room, or a friend's bed-room; in front, a large verandah eight feet wide, is erected, both as a promenade and lounge, as also a shelter for the sitting-room. The

huts generally face the south-east, to avoid the mid-day sun. The sides are built of large slabs, about nine feet high, and of various breadths, fixed into large heavy sleepers, top and bottom, which sleepers are dovetailed and spliced into each other at their extreme points. These slabs are run out of a large tree, cut into the required length, and the wood being very free, the labour is not great. A roof of bark or shingles is arranged from the face of the top sleeper, and forms nearly an equilateral triangle, to give the rain a sufficient fall, and a proper elevation for the admission of air. The whole is, therefore, a compact body, out of the ground, and it might be removed entire anywhere, *if only* you could find sufficiently strong tackle and power to draw it.

The inside is decorated according to the taste of its owners; some have a light coat of osnaburg or canvas nailed inside to exclude the draught; others decorate the naked sides with swords, and guns and bows; others hang up the trophies of the chase, such as skins of kangaroo, emu, and native

dog brushes, in elegant confusion; all around are displayed spears, boomerangs, hielamans, waddies, tomahauks, dillies and calabashes, the spoil of a hard fought battle, or a surprised camp of natives.

The object most worthy of attention after this is the woolshed; first because it is the place where all the sheep are shorn, and all the wool is sorted and pressed ready for carriage; secondly, because, in magnitude, it is the largest building on the establishment. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 are skillions formed by a sloping verandah to receive the sheep in



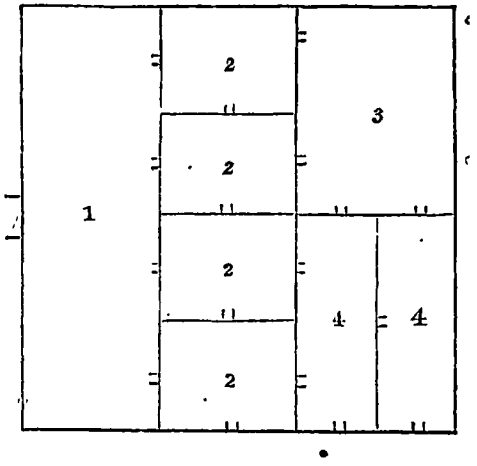
from the fold as required. They are waterproof and dug, and therefore generally filled overnight with a sufficient quantity of sheep, so that the prime of the morning may not be lost. No. 8 is the pen into which they are driven immediately before they go into the shearer's hands. No. 9 is

the room in which, perhaps some ten, or twelve men are hard at work, clipping the wool or picking up the fleeces.

No. 10 is the table on which the fleece is thrown, previous to its being sorted and folded; and when it is arranged according to its quality, it is thrown into the pens, (Nos. 11) which are three upright divisions or boxes, open on one side, from which it is conveyed, as quickly as possible, to No. 12, or the wool press. This is the general plan. The wool-press finishes the process, and the wool being pressed, by aid of an enormous lever, so tight that no more can be admitted, the lid is sewn on to the bag, and upon raising the pressure, a fine square bale, as hard as a rock, is turned out, weighing about 350 lbs., which is deposited in No. 13, or the temporary store-room, till the master is prepared to send it to Sydney.

The next thing particularly striking, from its enormous strength and dimensions, is a Stockyard, about twenty rods square, and capable of receiving above 1500 head of cattle. The main square is divided into eight smaller ones, each connected with the

other. No. 1 is the bush-yard which re-



ceives the herd from the run; Nos. 2, the smaller ones, into which they are drafted and arranged according to the wish of the proprietor. No. 3 is a large one which receives those selected; and Nos. 4, are additional ones, either to allow the departure of cattle, which are no longer required, into the bush, or for any other purpose the occasion may require. The whole is a large fence, with posts, often three feet in diameter, and buried in the ground to the depth of four feet, with strong rails morticed into the posts, so close as barely to

allow a dog's head between them, and capped, at the height of eight feet, with long straight saplings let into the head of each post. This capping keeps it together, and makes it very solid.

The paddocks are so arranged that hills may afford shelter, and plains, or light-timbered flats, an escape from the enormous flies and other persecuting enemies. Another indispensable necessary is a secure and permanent water-hole, inside, which may likewise serve as a boundary. The brow of a hill is generally selected.

These are the principal features on the Head Station, a spot where the squatter himself resides, and from which all his orders and proceeds issue. The gardens are oft more or less the work of his own hands; and as, after the first great labour, the return is truly welcome and palatable, he takes a pride and pleasure in ascertaining the change of seasons, and assisting by all his means the ever bountiful friendship of kind nature. Half an hour, passed each day in such healthy exertion, will supply his table in a very short time with vegetables unequalled

in England, and fruits that an epicure's eye would tremble with delight at beholding.

Having seen so much, your astonishment is excited at the nearly total absence of the principal ornament of a sheep station. You ask of your friend this question, where are all your sheep? "We will take a fresh horse and gallop round the sheep stations." After a smart ride of four miles, evident signs of these devouring caterpillars appear; at each step the grass becomes shorter and shorter, till at last it is almost bare. A peculiar scent, and dusty soil, at length announce your proximity to one of the "runs," [h] and the hurdles appointed in squares according to the number of the flocks are generally set opposite the hut.

The first thing the new chum then remarks is, there are two different folds; therefore, there are two separate flocks: they are on clean soil; therefore, cleanliness improves the health of the sheep: there is a watch-box, large enough to admit of one person to sleep in; so the flocks must require protection at night. There are some

fine kangaroo dogs, no doubt to assist the watchman in defeating the attack of his enemy. After these observations, so explained, you enter the hut, which is neat and comfortable. A man is ready to hang up the nags, but immediately returns to offer the refreshing "pot of tea." The embers are raised in a somewhat artificial position; on enquiry, a damper is found to be the cause of the elevation; and as this is the bushman's bread, I must describe it. It is very nice, when you cannot get better, and many prefer it even when they can. A few pounds of flour are thrown on an old sheep's skin, or piece of bark, kept clean for the purpose, and after a vacuum has been made in the centre of the flour, by heaping up a wall, as it were, all round, pure water is poured in to mix it. The mixture becoming a solid, it is rolled and worked not as long as it ought to be, but until the baker is tired, and then flattened into an oval shape. In this state it is thrown among the ashes, and the embers are raked over it; in twenty minutes *out* jumps a damper.

Seeing only one man at home, a reason is

required; it is given thus, each morning, at sunrise, the two flocks are let out by the night watchman, and delivered into the charge of the shepherd, who follows them to the well-known run, allowing them to ramble and play about at discretion; his dogs collecting them together, if required, in a very short time. Thus the watchman is left alone during the day, while his two mess-mates are never so far distant, but they can hear the report of his gun, should he require assistance. His time is occupied in moving the hurdles, and preparing the daily bread; for it is a deadly and unpardonable sin for shepherds to be at home, without a cause, till sunset. This is the duty of either. What is the usual rate of wages you give, is the "new chum's" next question?

"To shepherds generally £20 per annum, but if they are old and steady men, a pound or so I never regard. To watchmen £18 per annum, and perhaps a gratuity if they conduct themselves to my satisfaction. I *have* given £40 a year to men; but, when I did so, I raised the price of my stores, which they *must* buy; so that, while they imagined

themselves richer, they were perhaps actually receiving less." But is that an honest imposition? "Yes; they like to think they are receiving, nominally, large wages; they know at such times masters are at their mercy, and masters know that they cannot afford to give shepherds £40 : so that, to please the men, they must give the wages demanded, but they must, in self defence, and to please themselves, use means to decrease the actual amount in money.

"Man must, or ought to be clothed; man must have luxuries when obtainable. A *bushman* must smoke; and, though I do not press him, yet I know he must buy out of his master's store, or go without."

Rather a lame defence! is it the best? "It is; and until we have labour adequate to the increase of our stock, and our general wants, it is a necessary duplicity."

What may be the average number of your flocks? "It depends on the time of year, the age and sex of the sheep. It also depends enormously on the nature of the run, whether it be mountainous, level, undulating or plain. On the latter I can manage any

number of wethers to 3,000; of lambs any number to 1,800; of ewes when dry about 1,500; but they must be reduced to 1,000 when the lambing season arrives." Why? you cannot lamb on such a spot as this? "Right, my friend, I cannot; but, knowing my prospects and every thing are guided by my success at lambing time, I have extra out-stations lying quiet and untouched for such an occasion; so that as soon as the ewes begin to spring, they are removed to fresh and green runs, and are thereby enabled to supply the young with plenty of milk, from the very first."

You must require additional assistance, I suppose?

"Certainly; economy at this season is foolish; the penny-wise and pound-foolish system will never give you a good return. As soon as a number of lambs are dropped, sufficient with the mothers to form a flock, I again remove them to change their food, and give a better chance to the rest. This requires extra men.

"Again the lambs dropped during the night require perhaps to be mothered, or are too

weak to travel; so I generally keep them three days before they mix with the main flock." Having so many together, are they not often trampled upon, or smothered? "Sometimes; but you must have them hurdled according to their strength, and leave them plenty of room. Then the mother will bleat till she finds her absent young, and shelter it from the wind or cold by her own person; and you will be astonished at the instinct that prompts the ewe to distinguish its own from any other lamb; but nature has given *her* laws, as well as rational beings; and knowing that, the miracle in part ceases to be one; yet so many different voices of all notes, from bass to treble, are a beautiful instance of the regularity, certainty, and infallibility of her decrees."

What do you consider a good lambing?

"Any thing above 90 per cent weaned: I have known more and less. I generally wean all when the youngest lamb is fourteen weeks old."

Thanks; so far I understand you, and shall profit by your hints; and, after we have visited all the stations in turn, ask you

a few more questions—are you ready? Off; —at full gallop, over logs, through dense forests, into and out of melon holes, see the jolly pair extending their ride to the next station. All is quiet; no sheep at home; the yards clean; a little garden with pumpkins and water melons all round the hut; a decent man plaiting some cabbage tree for hats; while inside, the bright tin pots, and neatly swept floor, bespeaking cleanliness, are the chief things remarkable.

Is all right and well? "All's well, Sir."—Away, away—the squatter's life is a right merry one. The five stations are visited; and you return home to enjoy a good dinner, after a pleasant ride.

How many sheep have you altogether? "I have now 20,000; that is nearly 3,500 at each station; but, to save trouble, I reserve one flock of wethers at home to slaughter for the supply of rations. It scarcely pays a man to keep less than 5,000 sheep; for he is obliged to have a station, huts, woolshed, paddocks, store, dray and bullock driver; and by a slight increase of capital, he might be doing much better, and might have a

much larger establishment, at very slight additional expence. Therefore you generally hear of partnerships, and as it is almost necessary that one proprietor should remain at home, it is an excellent plan, provided both the partners share alike, and can "pull together." Their joint finances enable them to qualify the expense attending a larger establishment; and, as it is well known that in a large business the profits ought to be greater, so it is with a large squatter."

How much land do you consider your own? "That is a secret—I have not any I can call *my own* however; I have not enough, and yet I have, *at present;* but Government wishes to curtail the extent, so I must be careful of what I say. As a friend, I will tell you now, what must sooner or later be known. In length it is about 16 miles, and in breadth 8. Now, that must appear to you an awful extent of country, to be occupied by one individual—especially as newly arrived from Old England, *you* are aware that many of our large landowners have no more; but still I will endeavour to prove to you that I can make use of to advantage all

I claim; and that, though it is an enormous extent of country for one man, the climate, uncertainty of seasons, scarcity of water, &c. warrant me in asserting, 'that a deduction to the amount necessary implied by the tenor of the New Regulations would almost be my ruin.' A single sheep requires three acres of land for pasture per annum: thus 20,000 sheep would require 60,000 acres—midst the good land, there is a large portion useless, or barren. At the lambing season a reserve is necessary. A sheep on escaping from the hurdles, rambles on, frisking and playing for nearly a mile and-a-half, when the feed begins to tempt him. The space passed over is bare, from the very circumstance of its being so often passed over; and as the rains are so uncertain, a spot once naked may not be green again for a year or more; thus, as the progress of devouring goes on, the usual march of a mile and-a-half, is extended to three or four; for the poor things must live, and they cannot live on earth, though they do sometimes eat it.

"A shower of rain descends with all the violence of a tropical torrent, and so softens

the soil, that the hoof of the sheep forces up a long-continued train of little pyramids, which become solid and hardened to such a degree, that nothing can force its way through them; until another rain washes them level, only to be regenerated in some other line. A long interval of dry weather, sometimes for two or more years, leaves you without a blade of grass in reach. The water-holes often are dry; therefore it is necessary to select places where feed and permanent water are. In a fine season this is easily done, but with great difficulty in a drought. I have seen hundreds of sheep and cattle lying at water-holes dead. I have seen the leaves of the swamp oak (*casuarina paludosa*) cut for horses; and I have heard of men employed in felling whole apple-trees (*angophera lanceolata*) for the sheep; and groves of myall (*acacia pendula*) for the cattle. I have known men obliged to drive their flocks into the highest mountains, with the hope of saving a portion *there*, which they had little probability of doing in the low country. Neighbour presses on neighbour so closely, that there is no room for

shifting—this way, or that way, is bound in by men in a similar situation; and though perhaps all are willing to assist a falling friend as far as possible, yet the uncertainty of the duration of the drought teaches them not to offer any assistance — as charity begins at home.

"Thus you see I have sufficient land at times; but am hard pressed at other seasons; at one time the runs are as green as an English meadow, while at another time you may wander over many miles without meeting a blade of grass. Again, on fixing a sheep station, you must keep two objects in view:—First, a good water-hole; and secondly, some fine, sound and stony ridges for a wet day. Now it is not always that both are together, and the alternative is, that you must either draw wood or water, for the conveniences of the hut. This is a great expense, as it would require two men and a team of bullocks every day; unless wells are sunk, which is an uncertain and often fruitless measure; though I have seen them in Liverpool Plains, where all the sheep are accustomed

to drink out of troughs. Again, a common thoroughfare may pass so near a permanent water-hole, that it may be a dangerous experiment 'to plant a station' near it; for this reason—that sheep are naturally prone to infection, and if disease is once admitted, it is only at great expense eradicated."

But cannot such travelling be prevented? "It is—legally no one can drive diseased flocks, unless in the month of February; but it is very difficult to swear to scab; and, before you can force any one off the road, you must obtain a magistrate's warrant, and be liable to an action for libel and perjury; and therefore the cure is worse than the disease."

Under the old regulations, as passed 1839, you were contented, I believe, and moreover prosperous? "Yes; His Excellency Sir G. Gipps, following in the footsteps of his predecessor was originally the squatter's friend. A man of sound understanding and determined principles — he knew, if the squatter had no protection from an invasion of his rights; if any one could settle upon and occupy a piece of

country so as to annoy another—if there were not some fixed rules to be observed, and a responsible person to take care that they were observed — that continual, quarrels, grievances, and jealousies must be the consequence. Under such an impression he appointed commissioners, with power to decide upon all cases; to settle disputes between squatter and squatter; to arrange the boundaries of each station; and to act as mediator, or judge, between master and man. For the support of these officers, and their police, or orderlies, an assessment was levied on all live stock, and found sufficient to meet the expenses. The annual licence of £10 guaranteed the occupation of any unclaimed land, provided the commissioner's sanction was obtained. So far this was a splendid act; and if I could banish the idea—'that it was not framed or intended as a prelude and feeler to the present one,' I should think that His Excellency passed it with the best intentions. However that may be, it was deservedly admired and applauded at the time. The squatters were secured in their homes; they were free

from assault, or injury; and they prospered. They worked hard—lived in solitude—carried the spirit of enterprise into a wilderness; and were only consoled by the idea, that there would be a terminus to their hardships, and that their dangers and privations would ultimately be rewarded with success and independence."

Are these hopes frustrated? you all seem happy, jolly and resigned. I understood that was to be a modification of the 1st proclamation dated April 2nd, 1841.

"Are these hopes blasted did you say? Is a man who is sent to a foreign country with an appointment in his pocket, disgusted when he finds himself too late? Is a man just recovering from a serious wound, thankful to another for inflicting a second deadly stroke? Is a debtor, who has just escaped from the shackles of imprisonment and the misery of solitary confinement, grateful to a creditor who pounces anew upon him? I hold His Excellency to be that creditor; we all of us without *one* exception had been, by pressure of times and a universal panic obliged to be debtors to our agents;

our neighbours and tradesmen had claims upon us; and time was gradually repairing the injury, when this thunderbolt fell on our devoted heads. We all of us had the means of paying our way, had not the prices of stock fallen, or if any thing approximating to the price of the original outlay had been within our grasp.

" The sum total of the proclamation was contained in these few, but fearful sentences: viz. that in addition to the present assessments, each proprietor must purchase every five years 320 acres of ground to secure his right to the Head Station; nor does the first purchase secure his definite possession, for unless he is able at the expiration of five years to extend and renew his purchase to 640 acres, he loses all claim to his former property, and it is handed over to the highest bidder. He is obliged to buy, but has no permanent claim to his purchase. Again, that investment only secures to him a country sufficient for the maintenance of 4000 sheep, or 500 head of cattle: and as he generally has cattle or horses at the Head Station, the land is

lost to him as a sheep station, for neither the one nor the other will taste a blade of grass; which has been passed over by the sheep. Therefore a man with 20,000 sheep will require an enormous run, for which he has to pay unreasonably. I shall perhaps explain it better, by adding to the original and former tax, the proposed amendments. The original tax was a licence to occupy unclaimed lands, and an assessment of one penny per head per annum on every weaned sheep:—

	£	s.	d.
Thus, in addition to the license-money annually	10	0	0
Amount of assessment on 20,000 sheep, at 1*d.* per sheep	83	6	8
	93	6	8

The following levies are about to be added, viz.—

	£	s.	d.
Licence on 5 stations actually requisite for 20,000 sheep	50	0	0
Licence on 2 extra stations for lambing .	20	0	0
Licence on 3 stations required for change of feed, etc.	30	0	0
Part payment of, and interest on the 320*l.* which is the sum to be paid every 5 years for the 320 acres	64	0	0
	164	0	0

Thus you see in addition to the 93*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* we are about to be saddled with an increased imposition amounting to 164*l.*

"Now, before going further, I will endeavour to shew you, that we are incapable of paying it, without the utmost economy, self denial, parsimony and care."

But will you not admit that the regulations, should they come into actual operation, may do some good? They will naturalize the squatter to his home, they will unfold the capabilities of the country more truly, and they will ultimately be the means of introducing a religion, where it was never known?

"In my calculation all through I suppose the proprietor to have 20,000 sheep: his outlay is thus defined:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
20,000 sheep at 6*s.* per head . .	6000	0	0
36 working bullocks at 7*l.* . . .	252	0	0
3 drays complete at 23*l.* . . .	69	0	0
8 horses at 14*l.*	112	0	0
Expense of forming head-station, huts, wool-shed, barn, paddocks, hurdles and any other necessary out-houses . .	1500	0	0
	7933	0	0

"This is the *mere outlay*. Now it is almost impossible to quote an Australian market price for sheep; they fluctuate and vary in value according to the times, the demand for wool, or the number of purchasers in the market. Every sheep is of this value: viz. *it is always worth what it will fetch,* (if you are reduced *prematurely* to sell off) by its own body. Thus sheep will average in real and personal value from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 8*s.* per head.

"I will now mention the annual expense incurred for the maintenance and keep of 20,000 sheep:—

	£.	s.	d.
Superintendant 100*l.*, overseer 35*l.*	135	0	0
Cook 23*l.*, storekeeper 25*l.*, 2 farm servants 20*l.*	88	0	0
20 shepherds and watchmen at 20*l.*	400	0	0
3 bullock drivers and 1 mate 30*l.*	120	0	0
Rations for 30 souls at 12*l.* each	360	0	0
Wear and tear of 3 drays, equal to one	23	0	0
Loss of bullocks equal to one team yearly	70	0	0
Licence 10*l.* assessment on 20,000 sheep	93	6	8
Washing, 10 men at 5*s.* per diem for 24 days	60	0	0
Shearing 20,000 sheep at 3*s.* per score	150	0	0
	1499	6	8

	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward	1499	6	8
Pressing, 3 men at 5*s.* per diem for 24 days	18	0	0
150 wool-bags at 8*s.* each . . .	60	0	0
4 doz. shears at 3*s.*	7	4	0
200 hurdles annually at 7*l.* per 100 . .	14	0	0
Repairs of buildings, &c. . . .	50	0	0
6 extra men at lambing time at 12*s.* per week for 8 weeks	28	16	0
Decrease of stock at 2 per cent. by casualties and accidents	120	0	0
Commission on 3000*l.* the produce of wool	150	0	0
Freight to Sydney, from the station, of 150 bales of wool at 10*s.* per bale . .	75	0	0
Travelling expenses, household luxuries, grog for shearing, proprietors' time .	200	0	0
Freight home of 40,000 lbs. of wool at $1\frac{1}{4}d.$ per lb.	208	6	8
Interest on outlay of 7933*l.* at 8 per cent. per annum	632	13	0
	3063	6	4

Thus, we find, the sum required for the maintenance of 20,000 sheep, on a healthy and fine station. By comparing the annual profits, a balance may be struck off, thus:—

	£.	s.	d.
20,000 fleeces of wool weighing on an average 2 lbs. each, and sold at the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* per lb.	3000	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	3000	0	0
Annual sale of 1000 wethers at the boiling down price, or about 5*s.* per head .	250	0	0
	3250	0	0
Deduct annual expences, time, and interest	3063	6	4
There remains in the Squatter's favour .	186	13	8

With this poor sum, after the strictest economy, is he prepared to pay the proposed tax? Yes; he is just barely enabled to do so, and that is all; and what benefit or recompense does he receive? A beautiful piece of land, which he may settle on his family for ever, and on which he may build a neat and comfortable house to be enjoyed by his heirs after him? No; by the greatest self-denial and privation of common delicacies, the £164 is amassed, and the enormous sum of £22 13*s.* 8*d.* left over and above. Oh! what a magnificent harvest! — what a splendid return!! £22 13*s.* 8*d.*!!! Is the property your own? No. What, pay for a thing which does not belong to you? It is even so; there is no compulsion, only we must. 'Tis a hard case: I have described the expenditure

incurred by a *first-rate Manager. Many, many* are in *debt* at the end of the season, and obliged to sacrifice part of their stock to redeem their position. Oh! 'tis a hard case; few, if any, can make the wool alone pay the expenses, and then only by the greatest care. 'Tis an unjust tax, because it is not your own property that is taxed: it is a cruel tax, because it can only be paid by extorting from the squatter the small sum he might be able to assist his family with: 'tis an unreasonable tax, because it comes upon people unprepared to meet it: 'tis a damnable tax, because there is no knowing where such innovations may end: and 'tis a ruinous tax, for no one can have faith in a government, which may, at any time, make some new addition. Fixity of tenure and the right of pre-emption are the modifications called for; *they must, they ought to be,* and I hope *they will* be given."

But you have not informed me how the increase is disposed of, and surely you gain large profits by that. And if, by your own account, you are enabled to pay the expenses of the station by the sale of wool and

wethers, I cannot think the new regulations so atrocious as you would have me believe them to be. On the contrary, I think you have been too leniently taxed; that runs have not been granted in proper proportions; — that a poor man with 1000 sheep, who does not occupy one-twentieth part of the country you do, has been subjected to the same tax, without receiving a return equivalent to your own.

"You mention a great deal of truth, I allow; that there were abuses in the late system I admit; and that some alteration was called for by every principle of justice. As to the increase of stock, I did not mention that, as it is a sinking fund to liquidate the outlay, and as soon as a squatter is able to do that, his position is thriving and his income steady. But he must wait a *very* long time. He may *then*, as long as wool and tallow are marketable commodities, reckon his profits to a penny, and by dismissing credit from his establishment, receive and pay for everything 'hard cash.' The *real* value of colonial produce is now satisfactorily determined; and '*crimine ab uno*,' I think the

spirit of speculation, the base and dishonorable practice of circulating paper, as an ideal of wealth, will never be readmitted, unless under peculiar circumstances, into mercantile houses again.

" What avail is it, rather what nonsense is it not, to pay more for an article than it is intrinsically worth ? I say again, the increase is a sinking fund, to come in by and bye, on security of which you may perhaps be enabled, though not legally, to obtain the means of paying off the new tax, if you are pressed; but you must also remember that the expenses increase with the stock, and that new runs and stations are required for their maintenance. I am not too greedy: — I am not so foolish as to assert that the squatter cannot pay more for this land than he has done: I would not deny even that he might, with the utmost difficulty, pay, according to the tenor of the new regulations, to his essential benefit, if the right of his purchase was made sure to him; if he was legally reinstated in it, provided the 320 acres were regularly and periodically purchased. This is the grievous part, that

he buys a thing and cannot call it his own, when bought and paid for: that he pays money for land which the caprice of a moment may declare no longer to belong to him. This INNOVATION, like every other innovation, may, at any time, be succeeded by a still more grievous imposition. Uncertainty keeps money in the pouch, and until a man sees his way clearly, and can fight with his eyes open, he is a fool if he invests it.

"As every principle of justice calls for an amended system, so the same principle requires that system to be remodelled with equity. This is the sore that offends — this is the cancer that destroys us. We know not the end of such uncertainties, and as soon as perseverance is attaining its recompense, envy may step in to devour it. That a man with 1,000 sheep should pay the same license for a small run, as a man with 40,000 sheep does for a large one, I agree with you is an abuse—and that a man should pay acccording to his stock and land occupied by that stock, is the natural remedy to be adopted. I can mention several who have had three or four stations separated, by a few miles only,

one from the other, in the same district, and who have paid only the usual £10 for permission to squat; while a poor, industrious man, who has occupied but a few square miles, has been obliged to pay the same.

"Here is the great subject requiring reformation, and enormous would be the increase of revenue, if the squatters *were but* PROPORTIONATELY taxed.

"Having thus endeavoured to prove that a sheep farmer while he owns, or ought to own, that he is not sufficiently taxed, can scarcely pay the new levies; I will, before reverting to the modifications, which every sensible and unprejudiced man will own to be not only necessary, but just and reasonable, place before you the outlay and annual expense attending the selection, supplying, and providing for a cattle station. Though, indubitably second to the wool-grower, in point of importance, this stock-holder is as intimately connected with him in these new regulations. He is a fellow labourer in the same cause; he has paid hitherto the same taxes, and been subject to the same immunities and privileges; and he is now as anxious a spectator of the

new epoch dawning upon his horizon. Now a new arrival wishes to purchase cattle, he finds out that a station, with less than 1000 head will not pay him; so, I make my calculation, supposing 1000 head to be the standard. Thus,

	£	s.	d.
The original outlay on 1000 head at 1*l.* per head, would be	1000	0	0
1 dray complete	25	0	0
1 team of bullocks at 7*l.*	70	0	0
5 horses at 14*l.* each	70	0	0
Farming, station, huts, yards, and out-houses	500	0	0
	1665	0	0

"For the keep and maintenance of which 1000 head of cattle, there is at least the following annual expenditure, viz.—

	£	s.	d.
1 stock-keeper 35*l.*	35	0	0
2 hut-keepers 23*l.*	46	0	0
1 bullock driver 30*l.*	30	0	0
1 black boy 10*l.*	10	0	0
Rations for 7 souls at 12*l.* each . .	84	0	0
Wear and tear of dray and bullocks, equal to one fourth	23	15	0
Licence for occupation and assessment at 3*d.* per head	27	10	0
Interest on outlay of 1665*l.* at 8 per cent. per annum	132	17	6
	389	2	6

"Thus £389 2*s.* 6*d.* is the total sum required after the strictest economy. To meet this sum a squatter has to boil down 150 head of cattle, and estimating the price of tallow in England at 4*l.* per ton, and ten bullocks as the supply for a ton, the result is:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
15 tons of tallow at 40*l.* . . .	600	0	0
Sundry beasts sold to the amount of .	60	0	0
	660	0	0

Now 40*l.* was the price obtainable in the London market in June 1845, but there was a deficiency of several thousand pounds in the Russian import, and that might have been the cause of so splendid a remuneration; perhaps, in succeeding years there may be a decrease in the value of the article. In addition to the £389 2*s.* 6*d.* you may add commission for receiving and shipping, &c.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Tallow at 2½ per cent.	15	0	0
Expenses of boiling down at 10*s.* per head	75	0	0
The freight to Sydney, 38 casks at 10*s.* .	19	0	0
Decrease of stock at 1 per cent. . .	10	0	0
Private expenses and requisite supplies .	100	0	0
	219	0	0
	389	2	6
Making the annual expenditure amount to	608	2	6

"The squatters annual expenditure therefore amounts to 608*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, leaving a balance in his favour of 51*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* and that is not often the case; but supposing it to be so, what an awful amount to go to sleep with! This might have been the case once—but turn the tables. By the new regulations in addition to the former tax of 27*l.* 10*s.* he has to pay, for every 500 head.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
A licence of 10*l.* equal to . . .	20	0	0
Interest on; and part payment of the 320*l.* for the purchase of 320 acres, for the 5 years right of occupancy . . .	64	0	0
	84	0	0

"Therefore instead of realizing aught by his exertions, behold *a deficiency* of 32*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; which may be obtained on the same security as the sheep farmer possesses the means of giving. The herd-master differs from the flock-master in one very essential point; his stock may increase, but the expenses do not; for, it is as easy a matter to keep 2000 head as a less number, and therefore he is not so much to be pitied.

"If I have been successful in my attempts to prove the difficulty of conforming to the new act; it only remains for me to answer your assertion of a modification having been proposed. Well, it may have been: I know it ought to be: yet, my young friend, you are at present only a spectator, and cannot therefore enter into the squatter's feelings so fully as their interested selves.

"Before such a step should bave been taken, a regular fixed and certain quantity of labour might have been guaranteed; to enable him like an English farmer accurately to calculate his profit and loss; the scarcity and uncertainty of Emigrants being the great drawback to his confidence and prosperity. I have shewn that the use of soil is often lost from its distance to water; and, *vice versâ*, that instead of a constant supply of grass, a horrid and awful uncertainty prevails; and that, therefore, reserves are absolutely precautions which a squatter must observe and keep.

"Can man fight against nature, against the will of God? he maketh our flocks and

herds to prosper, or not, as seemeth best to his Providential wisdom. Therefore laws ought to be peculiarly and carefully enacted, according to the seasons and the physical nature of the country. That man should enjoy the right to more land than he is able to occupy, is an abuse of that right; but it is a matter of vast difficulty to determine the quantity so as to allow for an unpropitious season and the gradual increase of stock.

"The modified scale at present proposed is merely a nominal one, instead of 500 head of cattle the same license secures you a limited run for 650: and the right of occupation, transferable after certain forms, is guaranteed for an extended period of eight years, on the purchase of the 320 acres at £1 per acre. No alteration ought to be listened to by the colonists, no modification received, unless the words "*Fixity of tenure and right of pre-emption*" are irrevocably fixed as the basis of reconciliation and friendship.

"In a moral point of view, the new Act *may* be beneficial; I cannot revert to the miserable state, the brutish character of the

Aborigines without painful reflections; while I admit the futility of most attempts to teach them the one thing needful, from an obstinate yet perhaps praiseworthy attachment to their present habits, I must not pass over the unchristian neglect which has ever been exercised towards them. Who has ever taken the trouble to learn their language, or having succeeded so far to penetrate the deep veil of mystery that hangs over their ceremonies? Who has ever, by kindness or persuasion, by reason or argument, by evidence or authority endeavoured to win their affections and actuate them in the pursuit of knowledge? What christian minister has ever been zealous enough to unlock and unravel the chains that bind them? The task has been vainly began by a few fellow-beings who take a delight in such noble employment; but who even then has followed it up? who would not rather put a ball in their hearts to rid themselves of their ceremonials and presence at once? Who does not know, by kindred feelings, how dear a tie it is that binds the patriot to his native land? who does not

know how rankling the enmity is towards the oppressor of national privileges, and the unnatural possessors of our property? But, when force of arms alone gives right of occupation, and when nothing in return is offered as compensation, but victims falling immolated at the shrine of liberty, how much more galling is the venom and deadly the hate! Could we have beheld with feelings of love the tricolor of Napoleon floating on our ancient towers? could we have felt regard for the seducers of our children, the violators of our wives and the oppressors of our Country? No, but Britons would never allow a foreign foe to remain on her shores; is that so? yes, and yet the same little brave island can countenance the overthrow of the weak, and the adaptation of another one's property to its own conveniencies.

"Oh! pure is the feeling and lasting the tie
That prompts us to suffer, to linger, or die,
Before that a foreign invader shall stand,
Or dare to re-model the laws of our land.
We all have our feelings! each clime more or less
Revolts from the shackles of lengthen'd distress;
Each habit, each custom, asserts the same ends,
To die for our country, our parents and friends;

'Tis a noble, indeed, 'tis a glorious death
Instill'd in the soul, at its earliest breath;
From Pole to Equator, each scene of the World,
No Patriot shrinks, when the banner's unfurled.
A still voice within us e'er beats with delight
When justice demands our equipment for fight;
When remembrance of ills reverts to the cause,
"That Ambition denies us the use of our Laws."
All venerate freedom! all feast on the scene,
Wherever a glorious struggle has been!

"Thus far the Creator of the universe is just, in that he allows the superiority of civilization over barbarism, of intellect over instinct or brutish reason; thus far man is right, in that he has a legal right to improve the gifts of Nature, and to convert barren and hitherto useless country into fruitful and productive territories; the world was made for man's enjoyment and created not as a beautiful spectacle, or spotless design, but as a field to be improved upon to the general interests of its inhabitants: and the same laws that ordained this, no doubt may be further construed; and regions of importance and value to others, if neglected or allowed to lie waste by their natural owners, are, not without the Almighty's consent,

permitted to pass over into the hands of those who may duly appreciate them: yet at the same time, as any nation colonizing another's country is the aggressor, it should be borne in mind, that some compensation is due to the former proprietors, and that, according to their understanding and reason, they should be treated with kindness, patience and even respect.

"A few peculiarities might be reasonably expected, and as we know by experience how difficult it is to eradicate old customs prevalent even amongst civilized beings, we ought to look with a lenient eye on the eccentricities of those who are about to give up their possessions for our emolument. We fix our habitations, where the colour of the white man was never seen, where the horse and bullock are considered as gigantic prodigies, where the sound of musquetry was never heard, and where every iota of the universal group accompanying a new settlement is regarded with fear and trembling, with awe and dread.

"Should we then marvel at the tottering step or suspicious glance the poor Indian

betrays at his first interview? Should we not rather try to conciliate as far as possible their assistance and court their friendship? Should we not hail with delight the opportunity offered us of bringing up in the fear of God a race of unenlightened beings, who have hitherto only seen him in the clouds and heard him in the winds? How far had these ideas been acted upon by the Colonists of Austral Asia? To a lamentably limited extent! The earliest, the primitive inroads of the settlers, were marked with blood, the forests were ruthlessly seized, and their native tenants hunted down like their native dogs. Certainly the original Colonists were not men of the most refined feelings, and 'the quality of mercy' was unknown to them; but these poor victims, judging all to correspond with the sample, retreated in haste to their wilds, till time and circumstances persuaded their invaders to gather them together again. The fame of the white man and his rapacious cruelty preceded him, and hostile bands were required to be put aside in order to secure that undoubted possession, which had kind-

ness and attention paved the way, might have been freely and innocently obtained.

"It is a grievous reflection, that a country advocating the promotion of the Christian Gospel to foreign lands, should have such thoughtless, such cowardly supporters and specimens in a scene, where their exertions were so eminently intended to be useful and praiseworthy: and it is a real pity, that from unkind treatment and the example of such ministers, the prepossession against them is so fatal to the cause.

"Hitherto the location on a new district has been attended with great loss of life, and though I admit it has become an evil necessary to the protection and secure footing of the explorers, till some immense alteration takes place, I assert that it might have been originally, and I have great hopes of its being ultimately prevented, and that, by the introduction of the present amendment in the Crown Lands' Act! If my idea is correct, the law will have one grand redeeming qualification; and while it amends the style of the squatter's religion, which is in itself a desirable object, it will make

him a zealous and rightful defender of those poor creatures whose land is now to be his own. Self will teach him how profitable their assistance may be, and how much more comfortable it is to be on good terms with men, who may be otherwise a constant thorn in his side.

"Hitherto 'sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof' has been the motto of the squatters. Prepossessed with the idea that the natives are the aggressors, without reverting to their primitive position and gradual extermination, the 'young squatter' looks upon them with feelings of contempt and dislike. If he encourages them he finds he has admitted thieves and beggars, who, if they cannot obtain what they covet one way, make no scruples in obtaining it by another.

"This innate propensity to appropriate to themselves the property of others, is the grand foundation of present distress; but what man does not long for riches, and who does not covet the sparkling diamonds of the wealthy? A nail in the estimation of these poor beings is a treasure, a tomahawk an independent fortune.

"By comparison, an idea may be formed of the value they attach to a tomahawk. A gin[1] is valued at a kangaroo-net, and a kangaroo-net is greedily bartered for a tomahawk; therefore they are of equivalent value, and often exchanged one for the other. A wife for a tomahawk, or a tomahawk for a wife,—cheap but offensive!

"Supplied with a few of these well beloved instruments, the pioneer of civilization might reconcile his immediate neighbours to his presence, by a well timed distribution; and as they can procure meat, house and raiment at comparatively little trouble, the trifling outlay is well repaid by future good behaviour. I have known stations settled upon, by the proprietors of which it was enacted that the appearance of a black fellow should be his death warrant; well, what is the consequence? Every place has some peculiar claim to their affection and, though black their colour, yet they have as keen and sensitive a regard for the scenes of boyhood and the hunting grounds of their sires, as ever white man felt for his mountains and vallies; no wonder then that

they long to revisit them, and their piety is death. Exasperated, hurt beyond measure, is it to be wondered at, that they seek retaliation; their kangaroos have fled, their emus are dispersed, or become the prey of the white man's dogs. They must live, and a fine bullock or a few sheep are tempting feasts to an hungry stomach. They come, they see, they steal, and patiently await the consequences of their crime, which is generally death to one or more of their number. Such causes are the precursors to an indiscriminate massacre,—and revenge has been the cause of death to thirty-five white men in the districts of Moreton Bay and Darling Downs alone!

"On the contrary, I have known *one* exception: a philanthropist, indued with generous principles, and a pitying spectator of the unfortunate state of the Aborigines, occupied an extensive tract of country on the sea coast, where the blacks are always allowed to be the most ferocious. By kindness and a trifling supply of tomahawks, clothing and meat, he won so much the simple esteem of his own tribe, that during

all the three years, when others were constantly on the alarm for, or were actually losing, men and stock, he alone escaped. His care was to ingratiate himself with the native owners of *his own station,* and he succeeded so well, that if ever he lost any thing, it was generally proved that a strange tribe had been the depredators, and his own immediately armed themselves to insist on a reparation of the injury or restitution of the property. Alone, unarmed, he is reported to have ventured into the midst of a large camp, and, without any molestation or question, to have seized and carried off an offender who had stolen some blankets from one of his sheep stations; a bold thing to do and an experiment dangerous for its novelty. To his pride, the guilty one proved to be a foreigner on a visit to his own men. No doubt, the tendency of these new regulations will be to encourage the desire of substituting kindness for cruelty, and as this is a famous example of its being attended with success, it is to be hoped that the day is not far distant when black men may earn their bread like Christians, and

eat the imported fruits of their own soil, with an appetite sweetened and excited by the very labour it cost them to produce it. They will be an heir-loom to future generations, and greyheaded old men will relate to the sons of their benefactors the acts of kindness which won their hearts, express their gratitude for being reclaimed from a state of brutish superstition, to meet in the glorious doctrines of peace and good-will to one another. May such good fate be yours, my sable friends, in whose society I have beguiled many a tedious hour, and in whose welfare I take a sincere interest. Having been for a period of five years, more or less intimately connected with your destinies, either as friend or foe, I rejoice to think that it has been in my power, in some degree, to atone for the injuries inexperience of your habits and thoughtlessness on my own side may have occasioned.

"Farewell, my ancient comrades; my singular fellow beings; farewell, till I revert with my readers to scenes where waddie, boomerang and spear will be in their turns celebrated.

"Having shown how far the New Regulations may benefit the aboriginal inheritors of the soil; it only remains for me to show how the white man's moral conduct may be improved, before I draw this subject to a conclusion.

"Fettered by no tie, and bound by no salutary check, the squatter enters the field: cooped up for months in almost solitary confinement, it is not a matter of vast astonishment that he meets with satisfaction a few friends, who, under the two-fold impulses of a sense of conviviality, and a love for the bowl, determine 'that night to be merry:' all the past is dismissed as a gloomy retrospect, and the meeting of a few brother squatters is the signal for a general debauch: —'tis an almost venial sin! —'tis almost pardonable, if fairly and properly considered! I will state a case:—suppose a man who has been accustomed to the dainties of life, the free use of wine, and the conviviality of a merry meeting, penned like his sheep in a forty feet log building for six months. Whilst thus immured he has seen no female society, and only such rough

fellows as himself—he has lived the hermit of the dale, and passed a curious existence much against his will—but a little to his pocket's advantage perhaps. Well, business calls him to the market town, and he meets with a few acquaintances, who insensibly excite each other, till brains, so long unused to potations of the generous nectar, succumb to the influence of the drowsy god, and 'the steam' is often kept up for days weeks.

"Champaigne is the drink preferred, only because it is the most expensive and exhilirating.

"Now, were there a few gentle shepherdesses to distract their attention from the bottle, it would be much better; and were those shepherdesses to assume the honorable title of wives, it would be the best thing that could happen; for, instead of loitering on the road, and wasting a substance in riotous living—the smile of an affectionate wife, and the knowledge of the value of a comfortable fireside would make the majority of men averse to quitting them; or, if necessity compelled absence, would be the cause of hastening a return.

"Now, if the squatter knew that the land he was about to purchase was irrevocably his own, and a legal heir loom to his successors, he would take a pride in ornamenting it with its greatest jewel. He would erect a suitable abode for a partner, under the conviction that it would descend to her as certainly as an English property; and the wife thus introduced, by preserving the dignity of her sex, infuses over the mind of her husband, and men a spirit of virtue and propriety. Respect for her restrains rude or boisterous language—refines the behaviour —demands that the sabbath be kept holy, and its institutions and ceremonies regularly observed and celebrated. Churches may spring up, and little spires be seen at the head station of each establishment. Her good management will make the five gallon keg supply gratification for months, whereas formerly a single night would have seen it wasted, and its drinkers besotted. Instead of low dirty huts, would appear fine stone buildings; instead of filthy fronts would appear bonnie gardens; and the house would savour so much of the presence of

woman that the infection would run like wild-fire, and no one rest till he had provided his establishment with a meet object for introducing regularity, order, religion and cleanliness into a farm, where such things were only remembered as dreams, or shadows of a reality that had been once observed far—far away.

"Nor is this all; children generally follow after marriage, and educated with the native owners on the soil their fathers purchased—it is but reasonable to suppose, that a feeling of kindness for their black countrymen will be strong; that they will imbibe a natural regard for such as hold an hereditary claim to their protection, and so the regular course of events will produce that mutual friendship, which by God's blessing, may have the desired effect of weaning them from superstition and fear, to the improvement of their souls and bodies. This will not be accomplished till the present generation has passed away: for it must be allowed, that these Aborigines, a distinct race of beings from any other on the surface of the globe; who, within the distance of 20 miles are strangers

one to the other, not speaking the same language, or using a dialect peculiar to its own community; who depend entirely for subsistence on the chase, or fishing; who appear to be without any religious observance, unless it be a superstitious veneration for certain traditions that have descended to them from generation to generation, are a curious people to reform—to teach what they had ever despised. But it is with the *next* generation that the good effects of a civilizing power will be appreciated and felt; for, it is only reasonable to conjecture, that children unaccustomed to the violent prejudices of their parents may receive, and attach themselves to the opinions their more enlightened and better informed benefactors uphold; and thus be reclaimed from the ignorance and idolatry of their forefathers, to live as useful, active, and honest men.

"The disposition of the native is generally soft, cheerful, and happy; they dance and sing, and are easily won over by kind treatment. They are docile, when young, and on that account taken into service by the settlers, who employ them as trackers for

lost cattle, as stock-keepers, or in any other way circumstances demand.

"A man can never forget his native land; and it will ever be a source of pride to him to behold a fruitful oasis, abounding with the choicest productions, spread over scenes where originally Nature alone reigned in silent and uninterrupted grandeur. It will be a grateful consolation to the dying man, to feel he has contributed his share to the civilization and advancement of a simple, untutored native.

"Having thus shown the *pros* and *cons* in the New Regulations, a recapitulation may be necessary to sum up all with.

"I have proved that it is barely possible to pay the proposed additional taxes, either as a sheep or cattle holder, without strict economy and self-denial. And who deserves to be the victim of such monsters? The man who lives in affluence and security, in the midst of gaiety and amusement; or the man who has had nothing to feast upon but bread and beef for breakfast, and beef and bread for dinner? If additional taxes were absolutely required, why should not the man,

who lives like the 'luxurious slave,' and lives without any care, save that of satisfying a sensual appetite, or looking after filthy lucre with an avaricious affection, be made to meet the demand? Ought not the heroes who brave all dangers, and chance ultimate success, to be treated with favour, or at least listened to with patience, when the general voice of all cries out for justice and moderation? The squatters have not rebelled—they have not exaggerated their case, but they claim their right to be heard; and, if I know them aright, as I believe I do, they *will* be heard for justice's sake.—

"I have not denied the capability of the squatter to meet the present assessment; but I say, he is a fool; and Government is unjust, if *uncertainties* are allowed to be taxed. Money must be obtained if it is wanted; but why should the unfortunate, meek, yet patient sheep, be preferred to the wily and preying native dog.

"Let the squatter know the end of a thing, —and he will exert himself to meet the demands. Let him see his way, and he will not be backward in coming forward:—

but try to bully him,—try to bounce him; and I trust he will 'shew the mettle of his pasture;' and be ever ready to prove his feelings emigrated with him from the island of liberty and right.

"When the Government Gazette of April 2d, 1844, appeared, so general was the unanimity, that as if the news carried infection with it, all the country was in uproar, and in every district public meetings were held and convened. I cannot give a better idea of the ridicule attached to its contents, than by quoting an answer to one of the questions which were sent round to all the magistrates in the colony, viz.:—'What is your opinion as to the Regulations of the 2d of April,'—which was thus laconically and ironically answered—'That they ought to have been made on the 1st.' The voice of the people refused to sanction them—the republican spirit exploded; and had not a solitary and salutary clause been inserted, deferring any active operation for eighteen months, a scene might have occurred—which too prematurely would have demonstrated to the world, that English hearts, and English

hands could maintain their rights even at the Antipodes. But a gradual reconciliation to the change has taken place; and as the very law will tend to the aggrandisement of the squatter, in that he must be allowed a vote for his representation in council, the excitement has effervesced, and left all ready to submit to the blow, provided 'Fixity of tenure, and right of pre-emption are guaranteed.'

"My old comrades, may Providence guide and notice you in your adventurous calling! The squatter has his pleasures and sorrows! A young man unmarried, has no care but the prosperity of his station, is jovial with company, because there is a mutual desire for amusement; is fond of fun, because he seldom has an opportunity of enjoying himself; improves himself, because he finds it an agreeable employment; confines himself to his own home, because he knows no one can better take care of his property, and be more anxious for his own welfare than himself. Thus he may be a happy man, and ought to be, if he knows the termination of his own exile, and the

end of his privations. Now—if even the New Regulations are carried into effect, it is to be expected they will be fixed on the permanent and immutable basis, by which he may calculate his expenses and profits. The increase of stock, is a gradual increase of property, of wealth, and influence; for if a man purchases 10,000 sheep at 5*s.* per head, and at the end of seven years is able to sell off 25,000, he has accumulated an increase, which will at last make him independent; but if a man is so unfortunate as to arrive in the colony when sheep are fetching 30*s.* and hopes to realize for his increase a like price, he will find himself woefully deceived and mistaken. Such prices cannot remain steady, they are merely nominal. And it is to that circumstance that the late distress of the squatters was owing; for to my knowledge a large majority of young men purchased their stock at from 25*s.* to 30*s.* per head; and as the current price at *present* is, they would require an increase of 500 per cent. to enable them to recover even their original outlay, which would be a tedious and highly unsatisfactory expectation.

"Therefore—I assert, that no sheep is worth more than it will produce by its fat and wool, unless in open plains, and flat countries, where the flocks may run to any size or number; thereby the expense is lessened, and their value increased. In an open country, a man may put 4,000 wethers, or dry sheep in one flock, at nearly the same cost that another can run but 1,000 in a thickly timbered and mountainous country.

"Who are those that merit protection and assistance? Are they not those who peril most, endure most, suffer most? Who certainly for their own advancement, yet at imminent risk and vast outlay, push out into unknown territories? Who plant the flag of civilization where it has never been heard of? Who colonize and locate upon lands claimed by England nominally? Who are the actual discoverers, and *bonâ-fide* reclaimers of a new county? Are these not the men who deserve an increase of fortune?

"When a 'new chum' is about to form a New Station in a new country; he has four grand objects constantly in view:—First, an open and sound country; Secondly, a

good supply of water; Thirdly, a neighbouring port for shipment of goods; and, Fourthly, a road to that port. To gain these objects, he precedes the remainder of his party, accompanied by a friend or servant, and one black boy, well armed and provisioned for about ten days, or so. He keeps one direct line till any large range of hills attracts his attention, knowing that from mountains, rivers rise; for these he alters his course, and probably strikes upon some stream which will eventually join the main water-course; he follows it up or down at pleasure, and is soon able to see whether the country will suit him or not. By following the range of mountains, he may cross other tributaries, and with a careful eye scan the adjacent country. On an average, water is to be met with every ten miles throughout the colony, and sometimes oftener; but, by obtaining a station high up the creek, interlopers are excluded, and he knows no one can come above him.

"Having fixed on a suitable spot, he brands several trees, at either extremity in some convenient and prominent point, with his

initials. This entitles him to the run, provided his stock occupy it within a prescribed time, and he obtains the Commissioners' sanction. This done, he returns to the remainder of his party, who have been following slowly in his wake with the purpose of conducting them to his newly-found estate.

"His first care on arrival, is to erect temporary bushyards, that his sheep may be counted and mustered. A store-room must then be made for the supplies, and hurdles for the folding of every flock. Shepherds *then* require huts, for it is the policy of the masters to keep the men from grumbling; and surely they ought to be contented when they see themselves cared for before their masters. But men are curious beings in Australia. They imbibe the wildness of the country they live in; they must be led, not driven; they must be humoured, and not ordered; for, knowing their own value, they will only exert themselves after the treatment they receive. Though not actually lazy, they are fond of their ease; and, like sailors, led to do anything by the seducing influence of grog. Their dress is wild;

unwashed, unshorn for perhaps weeks, it is difficult to distinguish them from the native blacks, so closely allied are the two colours. Yet they will endure any fatigue on occasion, remaining up day and night for a week together, provided they are allowed an extra supply of tea and tobacco. They are ready to follow their master into any danger, but, without a leader, they are, as a rabble generally is, cowards.

" If they do their duty they are worth 20*l.* per annum and good rations; if they are idle, the sooner they are sent to the right about the better, for evil communication corrupts good manners, and *one ill disposed* man will infect the whole with a spirit of insubordination and discontent.

" It would be almost idle to attempt a complete description of a squatter, emigrating in the most primitive style, with his flocks and herds; mountains, plains, creeks, scrubs, precipices, gullies, ravines, scarcity of water and feed are amongst the formidable foes he has to encounter in his pilgrimage.

" Incivility from men, loss of time from

loss of bullocks, decrease of stock from exhaustion, annoyances from blacks, the uncertainty of procuring supplies regularly with numberless smaller grievances form a fearful total.

"This is the man who annually has paid his taxes for the support of a Commissioner, who rides about the country, visiting the houses of those who can give him the best wine and accommodation, and the most flattery to make them palatable: he is attended by an orderly or two, who in military costume await his commands and appear exceedingly deferential, till they are behind his back, then getting most disgustingly intoxicated.

"This is the man by whose labour and means the merchant, tradesman, commission agent, tinker, tailor, mechanic and labourer are all supported; and yet even *then* he cannot be allowed to remain in peace and quietness. Government observes with a longing eye his capabilities, and greedy of gain desires a share of his remaining profits. Who can resist without the means? but an injury or injustice once

inflicted will ever rankle in the breast and be obliterated but by an irrevocable secession: all our colonies without scarcely one exception have been ruled with a rod of iron: what did Mr. Pitt say on the American Question? 'Treat them like men, they demand their rights as men, and shew you are not friends in words alone.' I do not fear for them ultimately, they are too influential and respectable a class of men to be seriously injured. It is every ones interest to support the squatter, who speaks not only for himself, but in himself for the whole body of the colonists. The wool grower's voice must be heard and attended to in a wool growing country; and therefore, taking every thing into consideration, it is my opinion that the present innovation may *in the end* be salutary both to their pecuniary and religious advancement, *if only* it is delayed till the present crisis has passed over, and the two egregiously necessary articles are ratified and established.

"Had it not been seen and proved, that it was practicable to meet the present demand, silence would not have been so long

or so universally observed; and I trust, by this time, that the squatter is aware what his fate is likely to be. Whoever now seeks the shores of Australia, will find them in a healthy condition, purged from a sickening disease, which has left an impression too deeply engraven to be erased and too sensibly felt to be forgotten. He therefore arrives at a good season, when speculation is almost dormant, and every commodity has its real value. English exports at this moment are nearly as cheap in Australia as in the mother country, and are likely to continue so; for I understand an immense quantity of manufactured goods has been sent out during the last eight months. The banks are firm, and money is plentiful, paper is despised and cash is the order of the day. The merchants are close but fair, having found out that roguery does not succeed.

" "The richer Emigrant will find sheep varying from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 9*s.* per head, according to the fleece upon it, and cattle from 18*s.* to 25*s.* per head, as a mixed herd; *i. e.* a herd, in which cows, bullocks, heifers

and steers bear an equal ratio. He will find wheaten flour cheap, or from 11*s.* to 14*s.* per cwt., and every thing with few exceptions reasonable.

"It is my firm conviction that a man with 5000*l.* or partners, who can amass a joint capital to that amount with a determination to work hard and attend to business, might double their capital in five or treble it in eight years. *Now* or never is the day; delays are dangerous, to-morrow may be too late;—there never was such an opportunity, and I hope there never will be again. The New Regulations cannot materially affect the new chum, because he knows before hand what he engages in, and they will be arranged definitely, so that he fights with his eyes open, and has an equal chance with his fellow labourers in the same cause."

Thanks for your opinion of the New Regulations, I can easily credit the value and necessity of the two required provisions, and I hope that every thing will be ordered for the best; but as for your threat of throwing off the mother country and imi-

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tating the Independence of America, that is carrying your remonstrance too far for a population of 160,000 souls, scattered over a tract of 1000 miles. Wait till you can boast of a single town owning a population to that amount, and then you may talk; but for a widely dispersed people possessing only one port to talk of secession, is drawing it rather too strong, I calculate.

Well, I have been in your house some time, and I find each day differs from the preceding one, only as the weather is fair or foul.

"True; the routine of a Bush Life is monotonous, and though that is a drawback to many, yet it only invites others to find food and employment in themselves to dissipate ennui. Either in study of literature or natural history, many an otherwise dull hour may be passed away, and therefore thanks are due to the cause which attached you to any pursuit after knowledge or science. Rising in the morning at sunrise, the squatter's first duty is to see all the men at their proper stations, to superintend the labours in the milk yard, to serve out any

rations required and to take a stroll in the garden. Then comes breakfast, varied according to the taste and ideas of the eater, then a pipe; after this a horse is generally brought up ready saddled, and it only requires a momentary exertion to put the foot in the stirrups before the squatter is prepared either for a ride to a sheep station, or any other place where business calls him. Returned by sundown he examines the work done during his absence, and then betakes himself to his evening meal. After that the hours are spent in meditations and thoughts over a pipe, in reading, or study, or other occasional business. But during the day several annoyances may have occurred; sheep may have been mixed, smothered, drowned, chased by native dogs, or lost; huts may have been attacked and robbed, and men may have been speared by the blacks; these and many other incidental grievances may have occurred; and, according to the temperament of the sufferer, they weigh more or less on his spirits, and render his evenings a compound of disturbed and various thoughts. The monotony of this

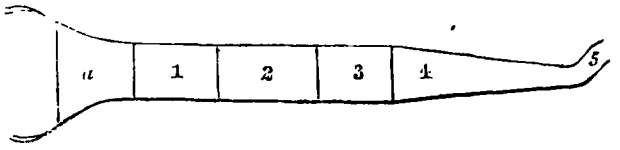
life is broken in upon by two important seasons, lambing and shearing, during which times all is bustle and activity. The lambing generally takes place in September, Australia's spring, as the feed is generally young and green, and admirably adapted to the purposes then required. A good average lambing is 90 per cent weaned, and by care and attention more may be reared; in fact, I have known 125 per cent in a flock of 900 ewes.

"The season for washing and shearing is from October to January; and the process though very simple, I will shortly describe. It is the warmest season in the year; the average heat in our district being about 78° in the shade, and 84° in the water; therefore the change from water to air is moderate, and almost imperceptible. A small yard capable of holding adout 800 sheep is erected gradually tapering to a point, which is extended to the water's edge. The sheep to be soaked are then driven through it to a platform overhanging the water, and hemmed in by hurdles. Three or four men throw the sheep thus confined into a

pool about six feet deep, and marked out separately by a square of logs supported on forks, and floating above water.

"They are thus soaked, and passed under a dividing pole to a second division, and then the first is replenished at the rate of twenty sheep every five minutes — unless regularity in the passing under is preserved, some are too long in the water, and others again are not long enough. After they have all been passed through the water, and the dirt is sufficiently moistened to be loose, they are ready for the washing, which commences in the same way.

"About twenty sheep are pitched headlong from *a*, the overhanging platform,



into No. 1, where they are kept in motion, and made to swim about by a man who either sits on the rails or stands in the water. They are then passed under a dividing sapling into No. 2, where two men are placed in about five feet of water to keep

them in perpetual motion; as soon as No. 1 is replenished, those in No. 2 are regularly forwarded into No. 3, where two more men are employed rubbing, squeezing, ducking, till No. 1 is again full. This having given a regular interval, a single sheep is passed under and examined by the master, or some trustworthy person, who allows them to go out into No. 4, if they are clean; and No. 4 being a long pen, bound in by saplings on either side, the sheep escape by it to *terrâ firmâ,* landing on rocks upon rushes, laid carefully down. The poor things are often so enfeebled by the weight of water absorbed by their wool, that they fall down beneath the load, or even sink under water and are occasionally drowned. About 800 sheep may thus be washed between sunrise and four o'clock.

"After this they are kept in some clean and dry place well covered with rushes or straw, till the yolk or grease renders the wool sufficiently soft. This is caused by the sun's heat in two or three days, when they are ready for the shearer's hands. Overnight a sufficient quantity are placed in a warm, co-

vered and floored pen for the morning's work; and as payment is made according to the amount of work done, master and man are anxious to make an early start. I have known 165 sheep shorn in one day by one man, and scarcely the mark of a shear blade left on the animal; but the best and cleanest shearers seldom can manage more than 80; and, as that is an excellent remuneration, masters prefer such men, as they seldom leave a single lock of wool on the body. A man being on the alert to pick up the fleeces as soon as they are clipt, conveys them to the woolsorter, who arranges them according to their quality; after that they are handed over to the woolpresser and by him to the bale.

"The squatter, besides his lambing and shearing, has important duties to attend to. In July or August, is the season for wheat sowing, and it is a time of great interest. The price of flour has varied from £10 to £95 a ton; it is a natural supposition that a man cannot afford to pay such an enormous sum for such an essentially necessary article without a great sacrifice of capital.

"A bushel of wheat will yield 50lbs. of flour; and an acre of land will yield on an average 25 bushels per acre; i. e. on common bush-ploughed, and bush-farmed land. Thus two acres are required for one ton of flour. Now, supposing you can buy flour at 10*s*. per cwt. you can buy it nearly as cheap as it can be grown, thrashed, cleaned and ground for: so that it would not be worth the risk of seasons to attempt a crop. But the import has not been steady, nor the prices fixed or certain; so that a squatter deems it almost necessary to take precautionary measures. Valparaiso and the United States send an immense supply of grain and flour, but if it does not remunerate them, of course the import will cease. I have known a station kept from utter starvation only by the chance of 50 bushels of wheat having been preserved,—that was in 1840, when the tremendous flood occurred, and drays were detained months beyond their usual time.

"If a squatter could safely reckon on flour not costing him more than £18 per ton, deliverable at his station, he would not

trouble himself about growing wheat; for, as he must send down drays laden with wool to his shipping port, it is no extra expense to have a full return load; but if he cannot be sure as to the price, he must endeavour to moderate the amount by the supply he may be able to raise at head quarters.

"Thus it is an important season: but I have known the climate and crops so variable, that within a distance of 50 miles one man has had a splendid crop, and has been able not only to supply himself, but sell largely to his neighbours who have had none. Again, in the space of three years his crops may turn out failures; the seed may not take root—blight may assail it—and when there is every appearance of a good crop, smut or rust may come in and nip it in the bud.

"Maize or Indian corn is another useful and necessary supply for a squatter. It is usually sown in November, and even as late as January:—being the chief food for horses, it is almost indispensable; and as a tropical plant it grows luxuriantly. This crop seldon fails, averaging from 40 to 60 bushels per acre. It requires care, but is

obtained at little expense, for the ground does not require ploughing anew; but a man makes a large hole and drops five grains, which will always spring up if the season is at all fair. I have known this grain spring up, shoot, grow, ripen, and to be gathered within the space of six weeks; yet it requires attention; growing to the height of nine feet, it requires some support at its base; which is rendered by constant hillings, so that it may defy the strongest gales. The fibrous roots enter deep into the earth, and take 'an elegant grip' of the soil. The rustling of the leaves when it is nearly ripe, remind you of the substitute for rain on a stage; and their '*toute ensemble*,' when in youth and vigour is grand and magnificent.

"Being the food of horses in the winter, of pigs, hens, and sometimes even man, it is a valuable crop; and, it will repay the squatter for his trouble, as he may generally count upon a crop as a certainty, without much outlay.

"Wheat and corn then are not to be despised; and a good manager will generally attempt both, although his endeavours

may not be always rewarded. Maize ranges from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* per bushel, and during the last season, 1845, I have known it sold as low as 1*s.* per bushel. The blacks are very fond of it, and it is a cheap crop, if only reared for their palates as a return for the use of their soil.

"The system of 'boiling down' has lately been introduced into the Colony. It was its saviour and restorer. It affixed a certain and sure price to cattle and sheep; it yielded money when it was most wanted; and tallow will ever be the second most valuable export from New South Wales. The system is this; a man wants money, he selects 1000 fat wethers, or 100 head of bullocks and drives them by easy stages to the nearest establishment. They are then driven into a yard and taken out as required: forced into the slaughter-house, they are pithed with a sharp chisel attached to a long pole, by a man who walks on rafters above them. This done, they pass immediately into the butcher's hands, and as soon as the flesh is firm, into those

of the dissector, who in turn forwards them to the vats. They are cut up into pieces of about 24 lbs. each, so that every particle of fat may be more easily extracted. They remain twenty-four hours in the vat, under a powerful and constant steam, and as the fat rises, it is drawn off through strainers into coolers, and from them into the casks. The casks generally contain about 5 cwt. nett, and in this state, branded with the owner's name, they are ready for shipping. A 1000 sheep will yield on an average 15 lbs. of fat each,—15,000 lbs. then will be the amount yielded. As it is sold by the cwt. it is necessary to bring into cwts.,—15,000 lbs. are equal to 6 tons, 13 cwts., 3 qrs., 20 lbs., and according to its present value of 40*s.* per cwt. the value of 1000 sheep is 267*l.* 17*s.*

"The expenses attending the boiling down from first to last are about 10*d.* per head, therefore the skin will not produce much profit and sometimes not even clear expenses. People do not boil down sheep before March, nor after September; therefore

the wool of the skin varies in quantity. The system of fell-mongery is established, which will raise the price of skins. A man if pressed for money, can *now* make sure of it, and can tell how many sheep will suffice. All the banks will advance on tallow sent home; merchants also will do so, if it is consigned to their own friends.

" The legs were preserved formerly and cured for hams, but though very excellent, they do not pay now for the curing.

" It is an excellent mode of disposing of surplus stock, and as the population's consumption is not equal to a twentieth part of the increase of stock, it is not so much to be lamented. Yet still to see so much excellent meat wasted, when we know so many thousands are starving at home, is pitiable though it cannot be remedied. The system of 'boiling down' is not thoroughly perfected yet; it will be improved upon, and I have no doubt that 25 lbs. will be extracted, where now only 15 lbs. are. As to cattle I shall copy the result of some that were boiled down at the Kangaroo

Point Establishment, Morton Bay, of which Mr. John Campbell is Proprietor :—

Memo.—No. 1.

Weight, tallow, produce of 68 head cattle, boiled 10th April, 1845, the property of George Leslie.

9 tons, 7 cwt. 3 qrs. 27 lbs. gross.

1	3	3	0	tare.
8	4	0	27	nett.

Average per bullock $270\frac{35}{68}$ lbs.

Memo.—No. 2.

Weight, tallow produce of 32 head cattle, boiled May 12th, 1845, the property of G. E. K. Fairholm, a second lot.

4 tons, 13 cwt. 2 qrs. 4 lbs. nett.

Average per bullock $327\frac{19}{32}$ lbs.

Memo.—No. 3.

Weight, tallow, produce of 54 head cattle, boiled May 8th, 1845, the property of Messrs. D. and F. M'Connell.

5 tons, 11 cwt. 1 qrs. 1 lb. nett.

Average per bullock $230\frac{41}{54}$ lbs.

"Branding is a season of importance to the stockholder, as at that time there is a general muster of all the herd, to be counted, drafted, and assorted as required. All the young calves with their mothers are

picked out and put into a separate yard. A fire is lit outside the rails, to keep the brands constantly heated, and a black fellow has it under his own particular charge to feed it, and pass the brands as they are wanted through the rails. One man armed with a roping-stick about ten feet long, to which is attached a noose for throwing round the calf's neck, and supported by another to carry the rope to a strong post, when the animal is fairly caught, enter the yard. Midst charging and excited mothers he fearlessly walks, shouting if required, or brandishing his long pole; on the word given, two or three hands 'haul taught' the rope and bring the calf as close as possible to the post. When there, one hand seizes the head and twisting it towards him, signalizes to the man who is at its tail, and by a simultaneous and sudden jerk, the calf is thrown on his broadside; his two hind-legs are then quickly fastened before he recovers the shock, and the rope made fast to a rail, one man still holding the head down on the ground, and another bending over his flank. The operation

commences, the brand is put upon him, and, the proprietor having inserted a description of colour, sex, &c., he is considered as one of the mob. By the Government Regulations it is ordered, that all beasts at the age of six months seen unbranded on any station shall become forfeit to the Crown, and it is the duty of the Commissioner of each district to keep a Policeman, constantly on the look out, to bring any calves beyond that age unbranded to the public pound for sale.

"Many a laughable scene I have witnessed in a yard: a few friends meet together for the purpose of assisting a brother squatter; and dressed in tight Jerseys and old trousers, they enter the yard. 'The grog is always handy, whether ginnums, rum, or brandy;' and about 100 calves are got through during the day. But during the sport (for sport it is, and that of a very exciting description) many escapes may have occurred. A calf writhing in agony has aroused its mother; who bellowing, tearing up the earth, running to and fro, at last menaces those engaged: stones, big

sticks and shouts are brought into requisition; but, sometimes even these do not avail, and the excited beast runs full tilt, clearing all before her. All hands scamper up to the top rail as hard as possible, and when seated fairly at the top, look down with contempt on their furious foe. But if one has been unlucky enough to miss his step when scampering up the rails—the charger's horn may have pierced, or gored his leg, or committed some outrage on his person.

"I have seen a few very severe wounds inflicted. I was once nailed in the trousers, but not hurt. I saw another friend jammed to a post between the horns of a bullock, but the horns being very wide and long, he escaped unhurt, by pulling himself through them. I saw another friend knocked down by a poley cow in the middle of a yard; and trodden upon afterwards. I saw a stock-keeper on the top rail nine feet from the ground charged by a furious bullock, who carried away the rail, man and all, throwing him some ten feet from his lofty seat. He was sadly bruised, but not otherwise hurt.

So there is some danger; but it is a sport all squatters delight in, as it is a season of conviviality.

"I have seen men who have been engaged during a hot day at this work return in the evening, as black as soot from head to foot —the only part about them white was their teeth. The labour is vast; and the bruises, kicks, etc. very amusing, but not pleasant to the sufferer.

"Throughout the Colony generally, English are the most numerous, then the Scotch, then the Irish, amongst the squattocracy. The Scotch 'stick together like bricks' as the saying is, helping one another over a steep place, or dragging one another through the mire.

"The English and Scotch turn out the best Emigrants, and are generally useful and good servants.

"The Irish are discontented, dirty, and for ever grumbling.

"The Scotch convicts are by far the worst having been transported for serious offences. They are all bad characters, the worst of the worst.

" The English convicts are very bad, but as the offences English law transports people for, are trivial and slight in comparison, there is a mixture. They often make good servants.

" The Irish convicts are the best of the three; transported for being concerned in rows, fights or disturbances, they are not branded with any debasing crime. With few exceptions, they are the best of the convicts as to number, English preponderate in every case, Irish come next and the Scotch are not far behind.

" When making an agreement with a master, the servants stipulate for wages, length of service and rations. The usual rations are 10 lbs. flour, 10 lbs. meat, or 8 lbs. flour and 12 lbs. meat, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tea, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sugar, 2 oz. tobacco weekly.

" The poorer Emigrant coming out with his wife will be allowed by the regulations to remain twelve days on board the ship, to give them time for choosing a situation; after that time they must look out for themselves, if it is proved that they have re-

fused a fair offer. From 28*l.* to 32*l.* per annum, is the rate of wages for a couple without incumbrance; they also receive a double ration, and if after a year's good service, they choose to continue in the employment, an additional 3*l.* may be given. This class of persons is much wanted and will easily find employment; the men as shepherds, labourers, cooks, or generally useful, and their wives as assistants at their several stations.

"The married Emigrants with large families meet with a little difficulty, they are allowed the twelve days and are at the expiration of that time received into a benevolent institution, and fed till they can provide for themselves, unless again it is ascertained they have refused a fair offer. But you must not expect tremendous wages, as you have a large family and they require food and drink, and their services will no more than repay the employer; your wages will be from 25*l.* to 30*l.* per annum, and rations according to the number of your children. Be sure and have every thing put down in

black and white, for though the majority of squatters are strictly honest, there are a few who will cheat you, if they can.

"Young men (single) will only have to land, to find employment as shepherds, labourers, or servants, and will be offered from 18*l.* to 20*l.* per annum. Many hold out till they have not a penny, but do you not follow their example; they at last are reduced to poverty and will be obtained for 12*l.* per annum. Remember you are a new hand and require instruction in the Bush life; jump then at the offer of 20*l.* for it is excellent wages, and if after a year you prove yourself trustworthy and hardworking, you will gain favour in the eyes of your master and no doubt receive a slight advance. Remember, 'a rolling stone gathers no moss;' stay at one place, and if in five years you cannot save 70*l.* it is only your own fault; avoid the grog-bottle, consider it a foe; it is, and a seducing fiend that has robbed many of a year's wages in one night, and sent others to a premature grave. You are a class of men peculiarly wanted, but be on your guard on arrival

and let not old hands, who look upon you as invaders of their late harvest, deter you from the right way. From 18*l.* to 20*l.* I repeat with a good ration is what you may reckon upon for a certainty; you also are allowed to remain twelve days on board, but it is your own fault if you are there two after the Commissioners have examined you.

"Single women, likewise, need only to land to obtain a situation with respectable families, either in the Bush, or Sydney. Their wages will average from 12*l.* to 15*l.* as generally useful servants. Let them be careful on arrival, they find many enemies ready to assail them, but by being allowed twelve days on board, they ought to have secured a situation. Be careful; go not at first into the Bush, unless with a *married* couple; but rather prefer the smaller rate of wages in Sydney for one twelvemonth, and then you will, from what you have heard, be able to judge of your future life. You will find plenty of admirers and suitors, but do nothing rashly; find a respectable mate, and *know* his character. Many under the temporary garb of sobriety assume a style

of life they never have, nor intend, to run. Be steady and obedient, willing and obliging, and you may also retain your situation with advantage. You are a class of emigrants always required; be good, and you will be happy, and never regret your coming out; but if you fall, you go to ruin in a moment, unpitied and friendless. Young folk, either boys or girls, from 14 years of age will find employment, or become apprentices, or receive wages at the rate of 7*l.* per annum for boys, and 5*l.* or 6*l.* for girls, to look after children and do house work.

" To all of you in conclusion, I will offer a few hints. I have told you each what you are to expect; well then, expect no more;—but bear in mind you go to a land where you can never want for flour, meat, tea and sugar, and excellent wages; where by patience, perseverance and good conduct, you may gather sufficient means in a few years to enter into business for yourselves, and always find a few friends to help you on. But be not stupid and disappointed. The life is a novelty to you; it

improves upon acquaintance, and you can return to spend an old age midst the recollections of youth enriched with the power of enjoying it.

" Coming out as Bounty Emigrants, you must remain three years in the Colony before you can leave it.

" The fluctuation of prices in the Sydney Market is very great; they are seldom the same. I will mention an instance; in 1843, lucifer matches bought at 5*s*. per gross in England, were sold in Sydney at 30*s*. per gross. The same article nine months afterwards did not realize the first cost there. Any necessary or commonly used article is at a steady price, such as slops, and clothing of every description; one merchant does his business by imports only, and has never been known to send colonial produce home; his sales are very extensive and his profits considerable. The usual mode of selling every thing in Sydney is by ' Public Auction :' sheep, cattle, horses and property of every description are brought to the hammer, and obtain the best prices. I have heard of scarce articles selling at a public auction

at 40 per cent. above the usual retail price in the shops.

" Mr. Mort has made some excellent sales of wool, tallow, &c. and, in a clever letter sent round to the squatters generally, points out and proves the advantages attending a sale by auction. Many men who are not able to purchase 50 or 100 bales of wool, have still smaller remittances to send home, and if the wool were sold in quantities adapted to their wants and demands, it would realize a far better sum than it has hitherto done; the commission is low, the cash at hand and no uncertainty. I think it will become the general practice in the Colony, unless with the very large stockholders, who can from their own herds, or by additional purchases fill a ship themselves.

" The Colony, as I have before said, is now in a most healthy condition: honesty and integrity are banishing roguery and cunning to other shores, or exposing them so unmercifully that they are driven " *hors du combat.*" In all colonies there has ever been more or less cheating and dishonesty,

but time eradicates the evil. Honest men there will be, and honest men in the end succeed; honest men support one another, and when in misfortune are so much respected that rogues must knock under to them, and either yield or renew their business under altered conduct and opinions.

"Rogues did emigrate to Australia, but they have become so mixed with decent characters, that they have gradually learnt a new lesson, and act upon it; unless some sly chance affords them an opportunity of indulging in their old habits, unknown to the rest of the world.

"How many of our emancipists have by strict attention to business, and a character for honesty, risen to opulence and influence. Some most deservedly so, and people never for a moment remember what they have been, but rather wonder with admiration at what they actually are.

"Yes, Sydney, you have been an awful cheat, but you cheated yourself in your endeavour to cheat others. You are now white-washed, so mind and keep yourself clean; let no foul spots blacken your amended

and improved system, and you will become a great, a populous, a wealthy and highly respected city.

"During my residence in the bush, I formed an attachment to botany, and geology; and in the study and pursuit after my adopted loves, I wiled away hours so gratefully and amusingly, that on my return from many a solitary ramble, I was astonished to hear others lamenting the difficulties they were enduring, and that neither sleep nor smoke in any quantity could dissipate the *ennui* which hovered over them. But we all have different temperaments, and what is agreeable to one, may be odious to another. Still for the mind desirous of obtaining knowledge, or for the spirit requiring a constant stimulus there is a wide field, and if idleness is not the predominant ingredient in the individual's composition, many modes of relaxation may be pursued, which will render an otherwise monotonous life an unexpected source of happiness—gardens, improvements, study, religion, civilization of blacks, shooting, fishing, kangarooing, visiting, and entertaing neighbours and friends,

are all within reach; and if, by a well-timed indulgence in such pleasures, man cannot be happy—the fault cannot be attributed to the life he leads, but to his own disposition and unpliable nature.

"For mere amusement and relaxation, and perhaps a spirit of enterprise, a few squatters, meeting together at some time when there is no very important business on hand, resolve to take a cruise for a few weeks or so, and explore the country. As the pleasure and excitement attending this mode of life is very great, any person not engaged at the time, is delighted to join the party. Five or six sally out having predetermined a course; and, after seeing a vast deal of interesting novelty, return improved in health, if it has not been wet, and hardened in constitution by the very difficulties they have had to encounter. Many go out on fresh horses and well-provisioned for ten days or so, either to trace the course of a stream, or a line of mountains; which, from the valuable information they are able to give, they may tempt others to go out and occupy. It is a soul-stirring life; but I shall

defer a description of it till I begin my journal, written during a seven weeks cruise to ascertain the truth of a report, which asserted the destruction of Dr. Leichardt and a party of seven souls, when on an overland expedition to the north-west point of Australia called First Essington. My own employment and study, as I said before, when not otherwise engaged, was botany and geology—and many an happy hour I spent in this delightful way. By referring to an old journal of 1844, I find that a tremendous flood had exposed the banks of every creek —the water having by its torrents widened the bed some twenty inches on each side. This then was a fine opportunity to search for fossils, and I availed myself of it successfully. I shall therefore copy a small note: —I find the fossils are chiefly obtained from the sides or banks of creeks from three to twelve feet below the surface. The two upper feet are generally the black Australian earth; underneath which is an argillaceous breccia, consisting of shells, muscles, and calcareous pebbles. Most of our creeks are in the middle of a large plain, rising from

the Main Range; having large water-holes; and bounded in on either side at some distance by whinstone ranges. The shell fish are still living in the water, with which the breccia is impregnated, or rather composed of. Red ferruginous earth, with calcareous pebbles, is a sure and certain find; or a bed of sand with concretions of lime. I have found specimens near the river Condamine, but they are the only ones I ever heard of as having been found on black soil alone, and so far from the mountains. The specimens are those of different animals, the dinotherion, tapir, macropus, and emu; and it is a singular fact, that all the emu and kangaroo bones are black, as if they had been subjected to the action of fire. The others are very old and perfect, but not blackened: proving therefore the antiquity of the native animals, and their eaters.

By diligent search, I used to perceive a small piece of bone or suspicious matter projecting a little from the front or side of the bank. I then immediately but carefully set to work with bayonet and hammer, and was generally repaid for my trouble; but

the majority of pieces were so small and often so soft, that on exposure to air they dropped to pieces too minute and numerous to be re-collected. They are remains of gigantic monsters unknown now, though tradition affirms that they are still to be met with far west, at the great lakes. The best specimens I have heard of, are those collected by Mr. F. N. Isaac, on the Darling's Downs; and lately sent home to be examined. I am informed by two respectable witnesses, that unknown noises have been heard at night-time in the larger waterholes. A gentleman residing on the Bundarra river, relates a curious anecdote about the existence of these monsters. During the heavy flood of 1844, he was aroused by his servant who brought intelligence of 'a large animal' having come up the river, making a tremendous noise. He went to the spot which was only a few hundred yards from the house, and to his astonishment beheld 'a large animal' with two white deciduous tusks, playing in the stream: at one moment visible, and immediately after diving under the

water. While absent for assistance and arms, 'the animal' disappeared.

"Mr. R. Gore (a neighbour on the Downs, or River Condamine which divides the Downs from the 'swamps,' as they are generally called) informed me that being encamped at a very large water-hole on two successive nights he was awakened by loud and strange noises, like those caused by the revolutions of a watermill. He saw nothing; but was convinced the noise was caused by some animal. This was also during the same flood, and as both rivers run into the Darling or Murray, it was the most probable time for their appearance; as they might be tempted by the immensity of water beyond their usual range, and retreat with the disappearing flood. Again, I heard from a Mr. Everitt, of New England, that, on a piece of *seal skin* being shown to the blacks, they asserted their knowledge of the animal.

"These reports are confirmed again by that of Captain Sturt, who mentioned having met with one black, who had travelled a long way from the north-west, and who said that

there was a great lake abounding with monstrous animals. From all these accumulated accounts, I suspect a species of hippopotamus must be the owner of these fossils—though they are attributed generally to the 'Dinotherion Australe.' I tell the tales as they were told to me; and I do not believe them improbable. It is evident the blacks still fear to bathe in large waterholes, owing to traditions about some enormous animal: and moreover, some particular sheets of water are still regarded with superstitious awe. I have seen them horrified at my bathing in them.

"Floods are very great annoyances; yet evils necessary to the well-being of a squatter. As few of the streams on the western side of the Main Range are constantly running, there is a gradual decrease of water on the level country, and as from September to the end of March the evaporation is more or less exhausting, it is not to be wondered at that the holes undergo a vast change. This repeated for two or three years, without any natural reinforcement from above, leaves many large

water-courses entirely dry. To atone for this drought, we are visited with heavy rains, which often continue for weeks: the thirsty soil at first absorbs the refreshing showers; but after the second day, the face of the earth resembles one continual vortex — one sheet of living water — one broad expanse of sea. The rivers rise and fall in rapid torrents, carrying all before them, and sweeping away trees, fences, paddocks, cattle and reptiles, indiscriminately. Many a poor traveller is detained by this cause, and obliged to bivouac till the current moderates, and he is able to swim across, though a cheerful cottage with all its comforts may be staring him in the face. I, myself, was detained seven days on the River Williams, though I knew the water was rising; and though I galloped as hard as possible to overtake the flood before it reached a certain ford, yet I was too late, but ventured to swim it; as the temptation was great, inasmuch as I had the option between a comfortable house, and a dirty bark hut with four squalling children for amusement and playfellows. Perhaps

it may excite wonder; but I preferred 'chancing it'—as the colonial expression has it.

"I have seen a river whose stream was naturally restrained by a bed of forty yards wide, overflowing its banks for a mile on either side. I have seen a station, an island, an isolated spot, without a single road to or from it; and I have seen huts under water, and stacks of corn floating in the stream. I have seen sheep driven to the mountains, or hilly country; and men almost starving for supplies: I have seen sheep dying by hundreds, cold and miserable; and drays detained six weeks beyond their usual time. These are the pleasant consequences of a flood; and in addition I have known six men, in my own district of Darling Downs, drowned in attempting to cross the river. Their feet become entangled in sunken branches, and they are drawn under by the current, before they can extricate themselves. I have known rations passed over a river for weeks by means of a rope, and large trees fallen across to make a path of; so it is to be imagined that floods

are unwelcome but necessary visitors. I have seen some excellent fun during the floods. Men, who are anxious to proceed to a neighbouring station, yet being unable to swim, are obliged to trust themselves to the mercy and care of others, who glory in the opportunities of having a good laugh: —the horses are driven in, and when once fairly on the way, they will take no harm; but prompted by instinct, land at the best place. Not so with the rider—who cannot swim! a cord is passed round his waist, and taken by his friend in the teeth to the opposite side. A few hands are assembled to assist on the occasion, and the pitiable object thrusts himself into the stream, petitioning God and men to have mercy on him. The latter are most cruelly deaf to his cries, and anxious only for his ultimate safety. At first they go up the stream gently, knowing that the current will convey him across; but as soon as he reaches the middle, the rope is slackened, and ducking after ducking follows. Those on the bank then haul tight, and he is carried across a little further; slack goes the rope, and down

goes the man, notwithstanding all his pitiable cries and entreaties of—"Oh! make haste, I'm drowning—I'll give you anything; you're a good fellow, Johnson, make haste, I'm dying, I'm dying"—Hard hearted men! They have eyes and ears, but pay no attention, for their love of malicious fun dissipates any other feeling. But it must end, and after innumerable duckings, entreaties and other epithets, the poor creature is landed more like a dead rat, or a drowned man, than any thing else. He vents his anger upon the mass indiscriminately, who attribute the cause to accident and declare that he never had sincerer friends, less disposed than themselves to play tricks upon his person. As it is of no use fighting against the many, so putting a good face on a thing that cannot be helped, he congratulates himself on his hairbreadth escape, vowing never to swim a river again under such conductors, such well intentioned friends.

"I shall never forget a friend of mine describing a fat old man who, had been treated in this manner; his rubicund coun-

tenance just peeping above the water, beaming with the united expressions of rage and despair, his pitiable groans and shaking fist alike disregarded, but by one continual laugh.

"It is a dangerous experiment to swim a river, unless you are up to the dodge. The only way is to breast it and beat against the stream, which will carry you across, if you can only keep your head against it; but by going down with the current it is impossible to say what stakes or trees are ready to receive you on their forks or branches.

"Droughts again are the awful opposites to the floods, and their effect is truly disastrous. Mr. M. Martin in his Colonial Library, asks if the drought, that visited the Colony in 1826, might not have been influenced by the Comet, which appeared that year in the Southern Hemisphere. I can answer him thus far, the Comet of March, 1843, was succeeded by another drought, though not for such an extent of time; therefore, his is a well grounded hypothesis. Rivers, which ordinarily were fathomless, became

entirely dry; and that is another grand cause for having the amount of land for grazing purposes proportioned and ruled according to the climate and season.

" In a few words, I will sum up my opinion of Australia as a country to reside in. I have said that there are many rogues, and bad practices, that money is the passport; that by money particularly a man's prospects and condition are affected. Let me also add, that there are many men who would blush at the idea of doing any thing dishonourable, that bad practices are not admired by them, however much they may be disregarded or overlooked; that talent will work its way sooner or later, and is, as it ever will be, respected.

" What can you expect from a new and rising colony? you cannot be justified in expecting the civilization acquired only by time; you cannot expect the greatest integrity amongst a medley of all classes. It is a curious country; one man is as good as another there, if he can only pay his way.

" All are politicians, and love the name of independence, but may perhaps, like our

transatlantic descendants, cling to the shadow only; freedom is the word, a jealous eye is kept on the decrees of the Executive; a disregard for most European habits too generally prevails, and as a man, who would sink into insignificance in England, is by force of circumstances naturally a '*great*' man in Australia, ambition may prompt him to gain a name by no very enviable notoriety.

"The Council is on the whole well conducted, men do not 'take the floor' and speak on the beauties of peace before enlarging upon, and advocating the necessity of war, nor are personal attacks often made, but hitherto a moderate though determined tone has pervaded the House.

"It is indeed difficult for people in England *fully* and thoroughly to understand the necessity of different laws for such a place. Those only on the spot can reasonably and favourably argue for and adopt the right views, which a peculiarity of circumstance may render indispensable, though at first sight to lookers-on they may be apparently disadvantageous and premature. There are old heads, there are wise heads,

and there is moderation to check vehemence; and through their short trial the Legislative Council has exceeded the expectations of all interested. Of course the squatters, as the source of prosperity, have strong supporters; most of the Members have interests connected with them, and therefore any attempt at innovation will be jealously investigated.

"There is only one point on which I think our Council too severe; viz. the desire to curtail the emoluments and salaries of Government Officers, forgetting that place ought to be supported with becoming dignity and credit.

"The beautiful climate, the habits and manners easily required, but not so easily abandoned; the sure prospect of success while the spirit of speculation lies dormant and the importation of labour is regular, are strong inducements for emigration.

"Go out, then; but be careful at first, waste not, want not, do nothing in a hurry; see a little of the style of life before commencing on your own account; be honest and punctual in your dealings, be open-

hearted and free in your manners; never lose sight of self respect, and it is your own fault if you do not succeed. Do not get *in debt a farthing!* once in debt, you have a chain to your feet, which will perhaps make you stumble and fall never to rise again. Do not invest all your capital at once, but keep a little for unforeseen expences. Above all, if you are to be a squatter never form your own station, but buy one ready formed; the expenses of forming one might ruin a new hand. If you meet with a young man of whose honour you are convinced, and who has the advantage of having acquired a bush education, with an equal capital to your own, join his fortunes; '*Nil temere facias.*'

"There is no fear of not enjoying the life; amidst all my travels I never met a man disappointed with the *style* of life. The only complaint was *then* the depression of the times and the consequent failure of their hopes. *Now,* that is not the case. If you are not fond of horses, dogs or sporting, there is plenty of amusement. Oh! yes, believe me, the emigrant will never

be disgusted with the enterprize and excitement of a squatter's life. I must make an exception to this last assertion; — a dandy who cannot live without his Eau de Cologne and pomatum, who could not actually rise without having his slippers, and calling for clean boots, who requires white kid gloves and soda-water, who prefers an easy arm-chair to the bare ground, or champagne to clear water, had far better remain where they are obtainable; all I can say is, he will not find them in the squatter's hut. Squatters are *men*, not women, though devotedly attached to the latter as a body. Squatters are *men* who live a temporary life of hardship and privation, with the hopes of gaining an independence; squatter's *work* — they lisp not, neither do they faint. Hope keeps them alive, the future spurs them on to exertion; a man must not look on and bite his nails if he wants to prosper, he must keep his weather eye open, look out for squalls, haul taught and belay in good time.

Black and white is the order of the day; never transact business even with your brother

without a written statement of conditions, terms, time, &c.

"I like Australia; I spent some of the pleasantest and happiest days of my life there, received kindnesses innumerable from many, many friends; and never wish for a happier life than a squatter's. One great drawback is severely felt: it is sometimes a solitary life. The immortal Byron says, 'Man was not born to live alone.' Wonderful to relate, I agree with him; try then, if you cannot persuade some young lady to go into partnership with you, and it will be the wisest step possible; it will save many a pound, and the expense of supporting a wife and family is very trifling, since the station affords of itself every necessary.

"Certainly you must tell her beforehand all the miseries, privations, dangers, &c., that are in store: or on arrival she would be justly displeased and unhappy at the unexpected trials. I have seen the *happiest* couples in the Bush!! happy! aye; they lived for *one another* only, and their very happiness and comfort made the bachelor's home appear comfortless and dull. It was

" Love in a Cottage," often talked of, rarely seen. A man can afford to marry early in Australia, if his station is free from debt or liability, and he has 5000 sheep upon it. He may afford one annual visit to Sydney, as the stock encreases much faster than the family. Money is to be made there, money has been and will be made there.

A Free Trade will not affect Australia more than the rest of the World. Our imports of the first class are wool, tallow, hides and oil; these we can produce as cheap as others. Wines, tobacco, maize and corn will soon follow, unrivalled and unequalled: the want of labour *only* prevents the three first from being more generally cultivated and exported, their quality being splendid. The latter is more dependent on seasons: Australia can grow any thing but rice and tea; Australia has money and enterprizing men, and will be content with as little profit as her neighbours. We want tea: well; China wants meat, and perhaps wool. We want manufactures; England wants the raw material. No country is independent, '*one*' only constitutes part of the whole,

and each must afford what the other has not, for its own emolument.

Farewell, Australia! be careful of your own self respect; go on steadily, and you will be a great nation, though I cannot help observing that you are already too great; for your population: *i. e.*, you occupy too much country and are too widely dispersed; passing over much that is good, and only picking at the pie-crust.

Australia can boast as fine timber, as handsome trees, as splendid foliage, and as useful woods as any country in the world. The only drawback to their not being more extensively used is the distance from water carriage.

Besides those trees used in the colony, such as the iron bark (*eucalyptus resinifera*) black, blue and red gums, (all *eucalypti*) oak, ash, cedar, pine, tulip-wood; some singular and highly important ones have lately been discovered. The "bunya-bunya," or (*pinus Bidwelliana*) first discovered and made use of by a Mr. A. Petrie, of Moreton Bay, is the most majestic. I have seen it extending over 70 miles of country in a straight line: it constitutes the main part in an enormous and impassable scrubby forest, between Wide Bay and the head of the River Boyne, and is of immeasurable extent. The trees are often 70 feet high, and 5 feet in diameter; as straight as a ship's mast, and without any protruding branches. It is light and full of a resinous fluid, which exudes freely from any incision. It branches off above into the cone-shaped foliage, and is

every three years laden with a magnificent quantity of fruit, which is greedily eaten by the natives. The fruit grows in the shape of a pine-apple cheese, consisting of some fifty or more little triangular nuts, which adhere together till thoroughly ripe, when a good blow separates the mass. For six months, i. e. from November to May, all the blacks within an hundred miles eat it, and nothing else. It is at their grand jubilee, a season of utmost importance. As ship timber it will be invaluable.

The cypress pine is a most splendid fellow; very large, free, and odoriferous; it is used for furniture, and ornaments, and is as pleasantly scented as the cedar. The red and white cedars are very luxuriant and frequent; almost all our huts are lined or built with them, though they do not answer remarkably well for that purpose.

A new, hard white wood has been discovered, admirably adapted for casks, which before we were in great want of, as the system of "boiling down" for tallow, soon exhausted all the supply of old porter, ale, and wine casks; and moreover, it was found

that the salt beef, or tallow, was spoilt when sent home in casks that had been used for such purposes. The currajong (*sterculia*) is used for cordage, and makes strong, close, but not very durable ropes. The Aborigines use its fibres for sewing their skins together with, or for making nets, and other stronger articles.

The acacias are innumerable, all yielding a famous bark for tanning; and a clear and excellent gum sold at home, at the rate of £60 per ton, which is easily collected at certain seasons out of the immeasurable scrubs and boundless extent of country where it is found. The leaves of every species of acacia are covered with minute glands. There are innumerable roots, barks, &c., which time will bring to light as useful medicines. The senna tree (*cassia*), is very frequent.

The bottle tree, (*sterculia*) is a very singular and novel style of tree, varying in shape from a soda-water bottle to a port bottle. It grows to the height of 50 feet, the diameter at base being about 3 feet, in the centre 6 feet, and gradually tapering to

a point, when it branches off into an umbrella-shaped foliage; the seed-vessels grow in bunches of from three to five, each containing about ten seeds; wood soft, mealy, mucilaginous; bark scaly, leaves palm-shaped, abounds on the eastern side of the range in scrubs. When the sap is rising, the inside of the tree is very tolerable food, allaying both hunger and thirst. The bumble or (*Capparis Mitchellii*) has three varieties. The flower grows in an umbel, yellow; inside of fruit like a pomegranate, full of small stones, and hot to the tongue. The outer rind is sometimes woolly, sometimes knotted, sometimes smooth. The wood is very hard, yellow; leaves dark green, ovate, yielding a splendid shade by its branches. Fruit edible, and by some much esteemed.

The Moreton Bay chesnut is a most luxuriant specimen; leaves green, pinnated, very large, forming an overhanging avenue to the rivers; the pods are large, solitary, pendant with from three to five seeds inside them as large as our horse-chesnut. They are eaten by the natives, and also by white people, but are not wholesome.

Xylomelum pyroforme, or native pear; seed pendent, woody, pear-shaped, divided into two equal parts, a feather-light seed inside, like the sycamore's; wood very hard, bark scaly, leaves small, ovate—sign of bad soil. The iron bark, (*eucal. resin.*) is so called from the hardness of the outer bark, which is often an inch in thickness, and not to be cut through by the stoutest man, with the stoutest axe, at the first or even second blow. There are two species, distinguished by their leaves, ovate, or lanceolate, both of which are green above, and white beneath, giving the foliage a singular appearance, when agitated by the winds. The beautiful, elegant, sweet-scented, silvery myall, or *acacia pendula,* must not be forgotten. Fancy an elegant drooping willow, with leaves of green, tinged by a white, resembling a widow's crape, hanging drooping gracefully down in long ringlets of two feet or more; from its bark exudes a clear, crystal tear, which congeals, and is gathered by any passer by. A meet shade for the dead! Its wood scents a whole room, and any article made of it, when rubbed in the

hand, leaves an exquisite perfume, similar to that of our double violet.

Grass tree, or *xarborrea*, grows to the height of 15 feet, from the top of which a quantity of long, spiral, metallic leaves hang down, forming a circle as it were; from the centre of which a stalk from 4 to 12 feet high, like a large ear of wheat covered with flowers, emerges. The resin is bright red, transparent, and when burnt, very fragrant; but supposed to be poison. The natives make their fires from the dry stem, by friction.

There are several of the *solaneæ* excellent food, and one has much the taste, and grows to the size of an apricot: in colour also it is the same.

Of the *orchideæ*, I must mention two: the *Dendrobium speciosum*, which is found on the tops of highest mountains, growing to a luxuriant size, a graceful spire of beautiful white flowers hanging down the rocks. They perfume the air for yards round; but the scent is sickly. It flowers in October, on the Main Range, and the root is edible and starchy; leaves are large and long as those of the *crinum*.

The second is the *Cymbidium*, which attaches itself to the *casuarina torulosa*, flowering in a spike, beautifully coloured; leaves long, thin, deciduous; roots excellent and greedily eaten by the whites, who know them; many I have eaten, roasted in the ashes; very starchy. The scent is exactly like that of ottar of roses.

The *nicotiana* is beautiful white flower, emitting a fragrant odour; stem round, leaves long, thinly venated, serrated; growing to the height of four feet. I have made a cigar from the leaves; but I cannot say I was tempted to make a second, from my opinion of the qualities of the first. *Passifloras;* I have met with two of these elegant little creepers in a wild state; the fruit of both edible. Of the *leguminosæ* there is a most innumerable variety, of the most beautiful colours and shades; indeed our enormous plains are entirely covered with the *lotus*, and *vicia*, and the side of our creeks with *mimosas* or *cassias*. The dear little sensitive plant, *Mimosa sensitiva*, is very frequent, and creeps along the ground to an enormous length, turned out of its course

by any little obstacle. The noble lily (*crinum*) whitens our plains for miles, its odour is sickly, but pleasant: it is seen in immense quantities along all the river banks. The leaves are long and deciduous, falling down in a circle as it were all round the stem; the roots extend some two feet in the soil.

The *Urtica*, or nettle, is of an enormous size; being a large tree with leaves that once seen and *felt* will never be forgotten; I remember well — in my search for plants that heedless of this gentleman's proximity, and gazing up as I walked along, I was only roused from my meditations by a too forcible appeal to my feelings—my face and breast being exposed, or only defended by a thin shirt, were covered with one mass of blisters instantaneously. In my endeavours to extricate myself, my hand and arms bare, to the elbow, were visited in the same manner; I rushed out of the scrub like a madman, threw myself on the ground, and rolled over and over for twenty minutes in the most excruciating agony. I shall never forget the nettle tree of Australia! I had seen

it growing to the height of 30 feet, but this particular beast was dwarfish—little things often make a great impression. The *compositæ* are a very numerous order, often unnamed and undecided upon. The *Gnaphalium* and *Campanula* vary the tinge of the plains for many miles. The everlasting is frequent.

I cannot omit mentioning my delicate friend, the fringed violet, whose beautiful purple flowers supported on delicate round stems, and fringed with webs of finest texture, just peep above the grass, and can never fail to strike the passer by with admiration.

The trumpet flower (*Datura*) is a large monopetalous, campanulate tree, white and odorous; growing to the height of 15 feet, and completely covered with its trumpets. Therefore I hope to prove the assertion, that Australia's flowers do not emit a perfume, Australia's trees do not bear fruit, to be incorrect; and I will prove that Australia's birds sing, and rivers run to the satisfaction of those, who assert the contrary to be the case. Amongst the *myrtaceæ*, another numerous order, of which the

eucalypti form a part, their affinity is at once told by their scent: and *en passant* through the scrubs it is a constant amusement to pluck the leaves, rub them in the palm of the hand, and apply them to the nose. The reason for the assertion that the flowers do not smell is, that in these warm climates the volatile oil escapes by the heat of the sun, and during the heat of the day it is absorbed as soon as emitted; but in the "morning" when the dew is on the grass, the united perfume of the whole family of plants is truly delightful.

Trees do not bear fruit, is another assertion. They do. Witness the Bonya, the native plum, the chesnut, the fusanus, the solanums, the figs, and many other minor plants, such as raspberries, currants, (a *solanum*), etc.

There is a peculiar grass on our large plains, which grows not unlike the broom millet, in little bushes. It is a harvest with the natives: the grass is very fine, they cut it, lay it in heaps to dry, and pound it between two stones into flour. The oat grass (*anthistiria*) is an enormous fellow;

growing to the height of seven and eight feet, with stems as yellow as corn. It has a grain, which by cultivation might become useful, and its stalk is so succulent and juicy, that the traveller often pulls it to munch, when thirst or hunger compels him to look out, and water is not to be found.

It is a singular fact that of all our English vegetables, fruits and herbs, a large majority are to be found in a wild state in our Bush: lettuce, thyme, carrot, onions, peas, cucumbers, raspberries, spinage, lemons, gourd, chesnut, pear, oats, fig, plum, are frequently met with, besides many others.

I must now mention a few of the animals, reptiles and curiosities that are to be met with. In this singular country there are singular things. The kangaroo stands first; of this family (*Macropus*) there are many varieties, standing from 2 feet 6 to 8 feet 6: some very fierce and ready to attack man, such as, the large mountain "Wolloroo;" some again mild and gentle, and with their soft, expressive eyes, beautiful to gaze upon. Their stalk is majestic, yet elegant; their bound truly wonderful,

at each step gaining fresh impetus till they will clear twelve paces at a leap. I have seen the swiftest dogs outstripped in a thickly timbered or high grassed country, and men and dogs both defeated, and set at defiance by the chased kangaroo taking to a deep water-hole. It will stand erect on some high spot in the water and keep continually ducking the dogs with its fore-paw, till they are too exhausted to renew the attack. It will stand erect against a tree and await the attack of two or three dogs, if severely pushed; and embracing one after the other with its fore-paw, raise the formidable hind leg and toe, and with the latter rip open the attacking foe. I have seen a dog carried some fifty yards by one of these beautiful creatures, till others have come to his assistance and he has fallen down overpowered. Their formation is wonderful and singular. Mr. Gould has been very successful in his enquiries about this animal; and I believe now, that it is proved beyond doubt that the young are placed by the mother in the abdominal pouch; but I have seen them there scarcely

formed, hairless, sightless and so firmly attached to the teat that it appeared to be a fixture. On removing the young animal however, I found the teat was conducted to the mouth through a nipple or false teat which remained firm, although separated from the teat.

The mother will carry her young in this pouch till they are well grown and strong, and if chased, support them till pushed to the last extremity. They are easily tamed, and being very gentle — greatly petted; but like all things when loved, they die away the sooner. It is a pitiable fact that in places where I have seen herds of 300, there is not one to be seen now; they will never eat a blade of grass that has been cropped by sheep, and the treatment they have experienced at the White Man's hands makes them shun his acquaintance. This is another reason why the blacks war against encroachment, and is it not a fair ground for complaint?

The next creature of importance is the Emu or Cassowary. It is wonderfully swift, and can inflict severe blows with its legs.

I have seen a Kangaroo dog fairly lifted into the air and thrown down with great force. I have seen another stunned and knocked down by a blow. It is good eating; many a meal I have made of it and been thankful for it. Of course it is known that it does not fly, though supplied with two fins extending from the backbone like studding sails, by which it guides and steers itself; its feathers are fine yet wiry and brittle; the tuft at the tail being long and elegant is often used by the natives for a head-dress. They will pick up anything, thimbles, reels of cotton, nails, bullets indiscriminately: and thus the proverb of "having the digestion of an Emu" has its origin, when referring to a man who can eat anything. They lay about 12 large dark-green eggs, which are highly relished tho' in my opinion too strongly flavoured. As it is easily tamed, it is considered a great pet in Australia. It shuns the white man, retreating as he advances. In height from the ground to the head it averages about 5 feet; and I have seen its legs used as supporters for globe lamps, the globe being placed and secured within the three toes,

one of which is two inches longer than the two outside ones.

The native Dog, (*Koala*) is very like the fox in ears, face, teeth and expression; in habits much more so: it sneaks, crawls, stinks, is a coward and, though sometimes seen hunting in packs, generally a solitary or only with its mate. I have seen them generally about 18 inches high and about 3 feet long from the snout to the tip of the tail. It affords excellent sport, and will turn round upon its pursuers if sorely pressed, snapping with its teeth. It cannot bite like a dog, but its snap when inflicted is very venemous, and often causes death.

I have heard the howlings of one answering the other all night, and each moment encreasing as the chorus joined in. The row was awfully melancholy. They breed with the tame dogs, and their progeny is greatly prized and admirably adapted for the stock-keepers use: they are excellent slaves, having acquired the art of barking and biting, with their natural hardy constitutions. It is a great enemy to sheep, and consequently never spared. I have galloped one down after

ten minutes hard work, and swinging my stockwhip three or four times round in the air inflicted such a blow with the leaden end of the handle, that it has fallen down stunned, and I have then had time to get down and cut its throat. But even then it may not be dead; I have seen them with their hind legs *hamstrung*, their throat cut and cut, crawling off. They will sham, shut their eyes, and lie to all appearance dead, but before you are a hundred yards off they will rise up and run away. They attack a whole flock of sheep and though they may not actually kill more than one on the spot, yet perhaps 50 or 60 more are bitten; and the bite is so deadly that few recover from it.

The Opossum (*Didelphis*) another of the marsupials, are little fellows that live in hollow trees, sleeping during the day, and feeding during the night; they feed on the leaves of the gum tree, and are the main support and food of the Natives, who are uncommonly quick in finding them out. They have a singular screech, which is taken up by one after the other at night. Their

furs are used as cloaks by the natives, and are very soft though coarse. They have generally two young at a time and are innumerable all over the colony. There are several varieties, red, grey and black.

The Flying Squirrel (*Phalangista Petaurus*) is a beautiful opossum on a miniature scale, with the skin of the flanks extended between the fore and hind legs on either side. They crawl up the highest trees, and can then drop off at an angle of 45° to any branch which they may have observed in their line. They cannot fly straight or horizontally like a bird, but only from an elevation to a lower spot.

The Platypus (*Ornithoryncus Paradoxus*) is the singularity of Australia. There is no doubt of its laying eggs; the fur is very soft, and smooth, when the rough hairs are extracted. It lives on the sides of rivers; and is so quick of sight, that on the flash of a gun it dives under the water instantaneously, and is therefore with great difficulty shot. I never saw one eaten by the blacks, and I never heard of their being seen above New England or the western

waters of the Namoy. It has been frequently described by Naturalists.

The Musk Duck, so called from the scent that escapes from it, is a large kind of duck, which like the preceding is so quick sighted as seldom to be shot. It is not eatable from its flavour; it boasts of an enormous head, and is never seen but in permanent waterholes. I never saw one on the wing.

The Eagle Hawk is a monster indeed, the monarch of the feathered tribes. One I measured was from the extreme tip of the wing to the other extreme tip 9 feet 8 inches; it was shot in the act of flying off with a lamb weighing about 12 pounds. Their flight is stately; and when feeding on any carcase all the minor birds keep at a respectful distance, waiting till he has finished his repast. I have seen the plains full of quids and some I ascertained to belong to the kangoroo rat (*Hypsiprymnus*) an animal weighing often 6 or 7 pounds.

The Laughing Jackass is a comical creature, a great enemy to snakes and all reptiles and therefore spared by all white men.

It is well and truly stiled the Bushman's clock; at sunrise every morning one bird commences his chattering and noisy laugh; it is immediately answered and taken up by a number of others who continue it for a few minutes. It is then time for every sleeper to arise. The same is repeated at 12 o' clock and again at sundown. Truly it deserves its name. I never saw a man fire at one, so universally are they respected and their society beloved.

The swans, ibis, pelican, spoonbill, bustard, innumerable varieties of cockatoos, parrots, doves, quails, honeysuckers, and ducks are so frequent and common as to be disregarded.

I cannot omit mentioning a remark concerning the ibis. It is generally found near swamps, lakes, or lagoons, and is always considered a herald or precursor of drought; the last two dry seasons having brought a great many down to the low countries—their usual supply of water having failed to the northward. At the first fresh they disappear. The blacks have a veneration for these graceful birds. There are two kinds,

black and white; they fly to an enormous height, and are said by these simple beings to build their nests in the clouds—descending to earth only when the heavy rains descend. They never kill them. This superstition corroborates my former statement.

The Scrub Turkey is very plentiful, and a magnificent dish: it weighs about 6 lbs., has the red comb and black body of our turkey, and runs at a tremendous rate. But the most singular feature about this bird, is the formation of the nest; I have seen their mounds of earth and decayed sticks raised pyramidically to the height of 7 feet, having been used perhaps for centuries as the nursery of their young. Every year at the pairing season, the nest is prepared by a few dry sticks being laid on the top of the old ones. The female lays an egg daily, till they amount to thirteen; and if the blacks regularly take the others, leaving only one nest-egg, they continue laying like an hen. When the usual number is deposited, other sticks are placed over the eggs, and the old hen goes to feed; on return she removes the covering. I have heard it said, and

by good authorities, that they leave the eggs to be hatched by the sun, and return only in time to protect the young. Many a nest I have dug into and turned over, finding perhaps a dozen splendid eggs for my trouble —no bad find, I can assure you.

Before proceeding to a description of a few of the reptiles, I must mention my old friend, the mason spider (*Mygale cæmentaria*). The animal itself is a large, black spider, building its nest in a cylindrical form, 2 feet deep in the ground; the inside is beautifully round and bound by webs of the finest texture gradually thinner towards the base. The lid is fastened on by strong webs spun by the "mason," and is as hard as bone, level with the soil; it is raised or shut, at the choice of its occupant, and is very frequent on our plains. The inside is neatly finished and quite smooth.

The largest of the Australian snakes, is that known as the Diamond snake. I have one 12 feet 2 inches long, and have seen a skin upwards of 15 feet. This is not venomous, but no doubt its bite would cause a serious imflammation. It has been observed

to climb trees; indeed, below the vent are two little horns, or rudimentary feet which, I suppose, may enable him to ascend trees.

The Carpet, or variegated snake, is much the same as the "boa," only on a diminutive scale. It is very handsome, its eyes are truly fascinating, and its bite is harmless. The black and brown snakes are the most common and deadly. They seldom exceed 7 feet; but owing to their being always found near creeks and watercourses, where man is obliged to be, they are much dreaded, for their bite is death. The Deaf Adder, is thick and short; seldom more than 2 feet 6 inches long, beautifully marked on the back: it will not avoid man, but lies so quiet, that it never stirs till excited, when it springs instantaneously at the object, and its bite is certain and immediate death. It cannot sting with its tail, but standing erect upon it, will exert its muscles, and project itself some 5 feet: it is very fierce when assailed, but harmless unless irritated or offended. The whip snake, yellow, green, and zebra snakes, are frequently met with,

—all venomous, but they generally avoid man, creeping away at the sound of any approach. I have met with several, and witnessed many wonderful and narrow escapes. A friend, who had been out shooting for some hours, coming home tired, without thought or reflection, was on the point of throwing himself on a stretcher to rest, when he was suddenly pulled back by a bystander, who had observed a tremendous brown snake coiled up on the opossum cloak. He was horrified; but providentially saved. The snake of course was soon despatched.

Another friend on a cruise, put his saddle down for a pillow at night as usual, and on lifting up the saddle-flaps the next morning, he observed a beastly deaf adder lying flat down. He soon dropped the saddle, and killed the snake. While giving our horses water one day, my cousin saw a black snake, half in and half out of the water; he shot it and put it upon an ant hill to watch the ants at work. While so engaged, its mate came at us passing over my instep, in a state of great excitement: it was also shot.

On going over the Main Range a deaf adder was observed, creeping on a poor quail which crouched on the ground, fascinated; we allowed the poor bird to fall a victim; and then struck at the adder. The blow did not take effect, and the reptile sprung three feet at my friend, who escaped unhurt; the adder was subsequently killed. Again, being one day encamped on the Main Range, for the purpose of cutting bark with my brother, and a friend; I had to go down to a little water-hole to fill the quart pots for tea; while stooping down to my task, an enormous black snake slid down the bank, quacking and hissing; before I could recover from my fright, he had passed over my arm, and up the opposite bank. I was too much terrified to shoot at him, though I had my gun at my side.

Two more instances will suffice—a little child, the daughter of a friend of mine, playing on the verandah, was on the point of picking up what she thought a varnished piece of wood,—so flat and straight was it extended,—when her father called her back. The snake (for such the piece of

wood turned out to be) basking in the sun, proved to be a large diamond snake, about 9 feet long. Again, I was sitting with my sister, after the children were put to bed, and having heard that a snake had been seen in the house during the day, we were frightened. While engaged in conversation we heard noises of "Cah, cah, cah," issuing from the rafters and shingles, and to our horror beheld a nasty yellow snake hanging down over our heads, as if about to spring upon us: up we started, a gun was soon brought to bear upon him, and he fell down; I found two mice inside him, for which, no doubt, he had visited us.

The Guanas or lizards, are very numerous; I have seen them from 4 to 5 feet long, they are all harmless though armed with several teeth. They are excellent eating, and, when curried, scarcely distinguishable from a rabbit. Their variegated skins are very durable and tough; often used for slippers, pouches, and other ornaments. They live chiefly in trees, which they always ascend when frightened. They are carnivorous, and are a great enemy to the opos-

sums, whose holes they enter, devouring the occupant. Some smaller lizards of a brown colour lie so flat on the ground, as not to be noticed; others seem always asleep till irritated, when they run off at great speed. Others crawl up the sides of houses and walls, and are seldom killed, being very beautiful and quite harmless. There is no doubt of their being able to adhere themselves to a new tail, if separated by a wound. I have seen several with a joint in the middle; and one with its new tail scarcely attached.

Centipedes — I have met with them 7 inches long; the upper scales of a varnished black, the under of a bright yellow colour. Their bite is venomous, but not fatal. I have three different times in sandy soil, when camped out, found centipedes in my clothes — rolled up in the form of a pillow. Fortunately I had a habit of shaking and examining them, and was only bit once in the little finger, and not very severely.

Scorpions are of two varieties; about 1½ inch long, very numerous; brought into the houses as most insects and reptiles are,

by means of the dead timber required for fire-wood. They are venomous but not fatal. The tarantulas, or "triantolopes" as the men call them, are large, ugly spiders, very venomous. Their web is so strong, that it requires some force to break it; they are also very frequent, but I never heard of death being caused by the bite or sting of the three last mentioned curses.

The Fish of all Australian waters are characteristic: cod fish have never been seen in eastern waters, nor perch: eels and mullet are again unknown in western waters. Fish, in the warmer months, form the chief part of the black fellow's food, are very numerous, and grow to a very large size. I have discovered a new species of the "osterglossum," which is described in my little journal hereafter.

Not being acquainted with the names of scarcely any of Australia's Birds, I cannot particularize them; but whoever says, she has no songsters, must have travelled little in the Bush, and *slept* in it much less. Let me recommend him to visit any scrub near a waterhole, and if his morning *reveillé* is

not sounded by as pleasing a variety of voices and notes as ever were yet listened to, I can only say that mine has been; and it must be from a spirit of uncharitable stubbornness and ignorance that he denies them the possession of a beautifully melodious voice. I have heard our little common "magpie" flycatcher serenading his mistress during a whole night; commencing in a soft strain, becoming more vehement as his feelings were excited. Not sing! Australia's birds *do* sing — yea — naturally !!

Australia to the geologist is a truly interesting and wonderful country; unfolding new mysteries every day, and leaving simple man to revel in the midst of wonder, uncertainty and amazement. I consider the major part of Australia to be certainly Antediluvian; but I think it is highly probable

that the sea has receded in many parts, and therefore exposed new and increasing lands. I think again, that many parts along the sea-coast have been raised by some submarine action. I think that Australia is not yet hatched; but that she will be still a larger country, especially on the north-east coast from 18° S. lat. to Cape York. I think that the Main Range of the colony, running as it does only 40 miles on an average from the present beach or coast, (between which the country is generally flat or gradually sloping—unless the presence of a few gigantic peaks, or isolated masses, may be considered ranges) has at a not very remote period formed the barrier Range of the colony. These mountains are very high, of sandstone, granite, quartz, trap and basalt. They divide the eastern and western waters, and several pieces of coral, volutes, and bivalves have been found incrusted in the mountains. The singular peaks and bluff capes—such as Hay's Peak, Mount Warning, Tarampa, Mount Brisbane, Flinders' Peak, etc., are formed as it were by convulsions of nature, and raised up as little islands, in

advance of the Main Land. The presence of fossils belonging to animals no more in existence; of plants imbedded some 100 feet in the earth; of enormous roots found incrusted with the breccias; of extinct families of plants found perfect — are all evident signs of very ancient formation. These fossils, particularly have been found both on the surface, 2,000 feet above the level of the sea, and in caves 80 feet beneath the surface. Such signs and symptoms are generally attributed to one cause — "the universal deluge," when the waters arose 15 cubits above the most exalted peaks.

That the sea has gradually receded, I imagine to be probable, from the following causes. The Main Range from the Heads of the Clarence in lat. 29° S. long. 152° W. to the Three Brothers in lat. 25° S., long. 149° W. is a continued series of horse-shoe curves, throwing off branch spurs, which fall off again at right angles into the sea, with many large peaks that may have been little islands. These curves may have been bays, and as there is a gradual slope for the drainage of the watercourses; and as the

subsoil is generally of sand, and impregnated with concretions of lime and shell-fish, I do not think it improbable. The blacks have traditions to this effect, that "the waters once did come up to the mountains; but that some large animals, (only one of which escaped) on a sudden caused them to recede." Again, to this day, the tide comes up within 25 miles of the Main Range, and the intervening space is not so vast as to render the conjecture inadmissible.

Coal is frequent, on sandy soils, rendering the water blackish, and is found on nearly every eastern creek. Lignite is also frequent and stratified, with impressions of several plants extinct, and existing. A bituminous coal is found on the Brisbane emitting a strong gaseous flame, and burning very bright. The ranges at the Heads of the Boyne, Brisbane, Logan, Richmond, and Clarence Rivers, all eastern waters, are constituted of granite; I never saw that rock on a western water. At Cunningham's Gap the Main Range is very high, nearly 5,000 feet above the level of the sea. It is a singular fact, that I have never observed

two mountains of the same shape, or similar one to the other, anywhere. Limestone ranges are to be met with, and of course the soil is splendid; and, from their sloping long sides, they are invaluable as runs for sheep.

The best grasses are found on limestone, granite, whinstone, trap and basalt ranges. The whinstone ridges are long, even, regular and sound; full of table-top mountains. They are always spurs branching off from the Main Range, and chiefly on western waters. From 18° S. lat. to Cape York in 11° S. lat. there is an extensive coral reef at a distance of 30 miles from the shore. It is still increasing, as recent vessels have observed; and will, no doubt, form a part of the main land. It is a singular fact that no river of importance disembogues itself into the ocean within its range.

Lead ore was found in a black's camp, and they attest that it is plentiful; but I have never seen it, nor heard of its having been seen in my district. Mica was long supposed to be, and treasured up as, pure gold, owing to a bright oxide of iron incrusted upon it. The compass is useless in

many places from local attraction: many mountains abounding with iron pyrites to such an extent, as to keep the needle in perpetual motion. A beautiful greenstone (used by the Chinese for the representation of their idols) is met with, and it is from this the blacks make their tomahawks in our part of the country.

The Darking Downs, situated between lat. 28° 30″ S., and lat. 27° 5″ and long. 151° 20″ and 152° 30″ W. are peculiar, and very interesting. There are three ideas I have heard as to their origin and formation: First, that they were caused by the united efforts of fire, wind and rain. Second, That they have been vast lakes. Third, That they have been subject to volcanic action. I have seen on a miniature scale the commencement of a plain. I have seen a tremendous bush-fire which has burnt its way for some 300 yards, every tree more or less consumed; I have seen the rain come and loosen the earth preparatory to a gust of wind coming in all its fury and force to overthrow them. The encroachment once made, it is not difficult to account

for its increasing. The outer trees of the circle, or line become exposed, lose their leaves, branches, and finally fall victims. Thus the first hypothesis is supported.

That we have had much larger sheets of water than are now to be met with I am convinced; chiefly from the blacks who have many traditions to that effect; also from the melon holes, fissures, lagoons, dried up water-courses, shell fish found at the depth of 24 feet from the surface; numberless water-plants, or their petrifactions found far from any water; and several masses of trees, rocks, etc., where no other remains of trees, or rocks, are visible. The plains moreover, all have a slope one way, with little variation, viz. to the west, or to rivers. There are still some enormous lagoons remaining from 1 to 5 miles long; and swamps of interminable extent. Of course, after giving a reason for their having been once lakes, I must account for their disappearance, which may be thus caused:—the large drain or water-course of this country is the River Condamine, which joins the Darling; running in a north-westerly course, it

receives the fall of water from the north and north-east. It is often nearly dry, therefore it must drain any supply it can obtain to replenish it; and these waters nearly always run under ground; having been drained of a large share, the evaporation comes in, and two or three seasons of drought finish the work. In succeeding years the river banks have overflowed, and their beds increased to carry off the water which used formerly to stagnate on the plains. They are never mountainous, but almost flat, surrounded by hills of whinstone, and sloping gradually from the Main Range.

In this lonely district scoria and lava have been discovered. There are several curious peaks, near Gowrie, on which nothing grows and the two mentioned rocks are frequent. The plains sometimes appeared to me to have sunken in only in the centre. Several rocks bore appearances of vitrification: the scoria is full of little round holes caused perhaps by a sudden change from heat to cold; whatever was their formation of which I am too inexperienced to form a correct opinion, they are

most singular, most interesting, most beautiful, and most useful, being admirably adapted for grazing purposes and saving the sheep farmer an enormous quantity of money, by the large flocks he is able to run on them. Like all good and favoured parts the district is well peopled with natives, who also seem to be a superior race to the tribes in less fertile countries. The soil is fine black clay and capable of producing any thing in the world, if only well worked and assisted by a kind season.

It is a curious fact that between two superior countries, there is an intervening space of barren or indifferent; also that nearly all the way up from Port Philip to Moreton Bay, at a slight distance from the main range on the western side these large open tracts of country are met with, like the prairies of S. America. Manero, Bathurst, Goulborne, Gammon, Liverpool, Salisbury, Byron, Darling downs, are a few of these large plains, and they make the finest pasture lands and send the fattest stock to market.

It is another curious fact that all the known rivers on the western side of the

range, between the before mentioned places empty themselves into one common reser voir; though by circuitous meanderings they may take a northerly course for some 100 miles, yet all those yet discovered have been found to joiu the river Darling eventually. The Condamine, Namoy, Peel, Big-River, Macquarie, Murumbidgee, Murray, are among the few I remember.

That there are still some vast lakes in the interior I fully believe: what becomes of the enormous torrents that each little tributary assists to swell out? I have seen rivers flooded a mile over either bank, and running at the rate of six miles per hour for weeks and weeks; I do believe that they meet at some inland reservoir, and become stagnant, till either dried up by evaporation or absorbed by the thirsty nature of the soil — and this has always been the general mode of explaining the change of the north west or hot and cold winds, blowing over large lakes or, *vice versâ*, dry and extensive plains.

The main Lake supplies the Darling till its waters are reduced below the level of its boundary, and that may account for

even "the mighty river being ill sustained in seasons of drought."

Talc is found frequently and in large masses. Beautiful agates of all shades and colours cover the sloping ridges. Red and yellow ochres are met with in profusion on the sandy ranges; pipeclay and red marl decorate some of the banks of our rivers.

Porphyry, feltspar and chalcidony are met with all over my districts; quartz, mica-slate and innumerable sandstones are also to be seen. Dr. Leichardt (my first instructor in any thing I know of geology or botany) intended to publish an account of this and other districts on his return, and I truly hope he may be spared to do so, as *his* information will be very valuable and interesting. I remember his telling me "that he had met with several valuable curiosities, and that the survey he had taken had been very satisfactory." The surface of the plains on the Darling downs is covered with little white round balls, of the value of which we were for some time ignorant; they are little concretions of lime, so pure that little trouble is required in the preparation. Having been formerly obliged to collect

muscle shells on the banks of the creek and burn them for lime, these little marbles were indeed a treasure. I believe mount Wingin still remains the only discovered mountain from which any fire has been seen to escape; yet it is devoid of lava, although its fissures and chasms are still daily increasing. In many other places however I have observed vitrifications, lava, and scoria.

Another assertion is that rivers do not run in Australia! I beg to contradict it—they do —but rarely. Witness the Darling, Hawkesbury, Hunter, Clarence, Brisbane, Eastern waters, *always* — Western, *sometimes only* run; but at certain seasons all of them beautiful and sweetly flowing streams.

I must mention a few of Australia's natural beauties; the Apsley Falls at the head of the river Hastings are nearly 4000 feet above the level of the sea (in lat. 33° 32″ S.). The river rises from the ranges, and after flowing over a huge bed of rock for some hundred yards, it descends abruptly over a precipice of 500 feet deep, and flows down a beautiful valley, bound in on either side by perpendicular cliffs from three to four

hundred feet high, the tops of which are covered with pine and other dense scrubs. Cunningham's gap, in lat. 28° 5," long. 152° 25" W., commands a romantic and magnificent view of "plains, forests, lakes extending wide." The huge peaks of mounts Gravat, Lindsey, Flinders, Warning; the Laidly plains, the Tarampa lagoons and the bold line of D'Aguilar's range forming a boundless circle between earth and heaven, are spread before you. The mist is floating above, the majestic pine habited in its widow's weeds, and the beautiful cascade falling into an abyss 600 feet deep, are in your immediate neighbourhood; and I shall never forget with what fervour I paid my morning's debt to my Creator, when seated "high amid the storm's career" on Cunningham's gap. Nor was his fate forgotten: he died a victim to his goddess, he died a martyr to his love—Nature. The whole scenery up the Hunter is either grand, romantic, or elegant, varying oft its appearance; it is a scene once beheld never forgotten. The numberless farms, estates, waving with every production of the east, the splendid

trees, the vales and mountains, the islands and groves are not to be seen every day. It is a beautiful river. Gowrie, on the Dar ling downs, is the brightest jewel of the district; the plains are small and narrow, like arms of the sea running between romantic ranges, yet rendered lively by the numerous herds winding down their silent bays; the bluff-head or Sugar Loaf, the convulsively detached hill, the distant horizon of ranges, and the meandering creek, are other natural advantages. The paddocks, barn, huts and outhouses bespeak its having passed over into the hands of the civilizing white man.

I could mention many other sweet spots; Killarney, the Brisbane river near Mr. Scott's, Byron Plains, the Bundarrah, Hawkesbury, need only to be seen and acknowledged as being each of them spots worthy the clime of the East.

The climate of Australia is exquisite; old age is unknown, for we revel in the enjoyment of perpetual youth. Æson would never have required a Medea's aid, or if he had, the vigorous herbs would not long be

sought for in vain. Australia certainly can boast of a splendid climate. How else could we live? How could we travel in the bush exposed to all weathers, with no other canopy than the Heavens? How could we perform our daily journeys? How could our sheep produce such fine wool, and our cattle such sleek carcases? The spring commences about September, the summer in December, winter in June, autumn in March; each season is ushered in by fixed signs: Spring arrives with young grass, mild weather and lambs: Summer, with rains, harvest and shearing: Autumn, with mild season, burnt grass and cruises in the bush: Winter, with winds, frost in the morning and variable weather. In Moreton Bay it is much warmer than Sydney; I have known the thermometer at 125° in the summer months, but the average summer heat there is about 87°. The dryness of the atmosphere renders the heat endurable, and there is generally a refreshing breeze, except at mid-day.

The coldest night I have experienced was, when the thermometer stood at 28°. There is a difference of about 10° between

the districts of Moreton Bay and Darling downs, owing to the elevation.

Mr. Martin in his Colonial Library observes "I have felt a much greater degree of oppression in Calcutta with the thermometer at 80,° and the atmosphere surcharged with moisture, than in N. S. Wales, where the mercury was at 125,° and the air of a parching dryness." I can easily credit it, for it is that absence of steam and humidity that makes our atmosphere so clear. There is however a great and sudden change during the winter months, a frost in the morning and the thermometer at 78° in a few hours! six bankets over you at night and no waistcoat endurable at mid-day: still if deaths only occurred from the influence of this climate I think the burial grounds would never be filled—but unfortunately man will abuse both constitution and climate, and where one dies naturally, twenty die from "delirium tremens" or other diseases brought on by dissipation and vice. Men could not lie for weeks with half a blanket for mattrass, and the other half for a cover in any climate; yet how many are obliged to do it

here! Men could not, after heavy labour, hard work and inflamed blood, drink the coldest water without feeling some bad effects from it in England: here it is common. No person at home thinks of giving a horse water, when he is warm: here it is the custom. No dampness! no fear of catching cold! Australia can boast of a splendid climate.

I cannot forget a curious appearance in the atmosphere which I witnessed in the summer of '43, and which was for some time inexplicable. "The spectacle was ushered in by a silent stillness, a clear and rarified atmosphere. The mountains, fifteen miles distant, appeared quite white, at the top a series of white clouds, like snow; all was silent; a whisper breathed, a gentle breeze agitated the forest, and a sudden, dense and suffocating mist darkened all in a moment's space. The beams of sunshine were seen only as the sun was seeking repose in his crimson bed. Not a star was visible during the whole night. Again 'tis morn; no rain; the same confined air, dark, impenetrable, suffocating. Not a

breath of wind; like the dust and smoke of a large city on a foggy day. The spirit drooped; we felt sleepy, inactive, and knew not why? Another day has passed; the sun only once again vouchsafed to visit us, and then only to wish us good night. The reflected colour of everything, within two hundred yards, was white; in advance of that circle it varied to a thin blueish tinge. This singular scene continued three days; the thermometer averaging, night and day, 87° in the shade; for there was no sun. It disappeared suddenly; it was afterwards found out that an enormous fire, of some twenty miles, had run all along the opposite side of the mountains. The mist was attributed to that, and as the winds prevail during the night from the north-east to east, the atmosphere, heated in its passage over the fire, made it so oppressive. What ever it was, it was singular: I never saw its like before nor since. Work was suspended, as the wool-shed was too dark, and the men too enervated to labour." I have copied this, verbatim, from a memorandum I find; it is therefore a simple fact, unadorned and real.

It was most awful and wonderful! the influence of the fire was felt over a surface of forty miles, and only extinguished by a heavy rain that fell very opportunely. I visited the scene some weeks after the conflagration; huge trees and forests of underwood had been devastated; the grass, which often grows to the height of six feet, had all been burnt and was springing up again. Had it continued a few days longer, with the same winds, all our sheep stations would have been deserted, all our pasture grounds laid waste, and the loss would have been consequently prodigious; but it was providentially extinguished, just as it reached the top of the main range. I have no doubt it was a ruse of the natives, who are quite quick enough to have found out how valuable good pasture is to us, and who were cunning enough to know that fire runs with the wind, and had not their aim been frustrated by Providence, they would have taught us a severe lesson. But whatever is, is best; it did no one an injury. While talking about smokes, I am reminded of the way by which we are enabled to find out

the Black's camps. After the loss of a man or two, and some thousand sheep, it is not to be wondered at that we sigh for revenge and recovery. We track, track and track the thieves, till perhaps rain has obliterated any signs; the only remaining plan is to ascend the mountains and look out for smokes. A black fellow wants an opossum he smokes him out; we can see that. A black fellow likes a fire at night; smoke must rise, and, early in the morning, before the mist has cleared away, the smoke rests in the valleys: by these we are directed to the camp, and having discovered its latitude and longitude, await a seasonable opportunity, when all are congregated, for attacking it.

I myself have been for days wet through and glad to meet with a little dry spot to sleep upon. I have selected a little piece of elevated ground, with on either side of me pools of water, from which, without moving, I could take my quart pot full whenever I was thirsty. On arising in the morning, a full-length portrait was most faithfully delineated in the soft earth; yet I never felt

any illness or pain, and though such adventures might be attended with fatal results in England, they are so common and general that they are disregarded in the Antipodes.

The sudden change from cold or frost to intense heat might be naturally expected to be unhealthy; I can only say I never heard of the variation producing bad effects.

I have seen snow in New England, in the month of July, three inches deep; and I have felt the winds very cutting and severe on table land, but seldom on the east side of the range have I heard of the one, or felt the other.

The thunder storms in Australia are tremendous, sudden and frequent; in an hour the whole surface is covered with water, and little courses roll down the hills in torrents. I have seen cattle-tracks, a little worn below the surface, carrying off the water; they become dry and crack; the next rain converts the crack into a fissure, which gradually widens and extends itself till it becomes a large gulley. On old used dray-roads the quantity of little streams is surprising, caused in a similar way. I have seen

a thrice reflected rainbow during one of these storms; I have seen whole forests denuded of every leaf, and as bare as a wood in the winter season in England. I have seen the grass beaten down, so that not a blade could be seen erect, and the earth so full of little marks that I fancied a flock of sheep had been over it. This was caused by a hail-storm in the month of September. I have known a shepherd return home nearly dead, one mass of bruises and gore from head to foot, and forty of his flock actually killed on the spot. I have known a plain, sixteen miles broad, one sheet of water; to pass through which my horse often had to sink over his shoulder, and a little favourite dog had to swim frequently for an hundred yards. This may give some idea of our rains.

I was residing 200 miles down the Condamine River, that is from its source; and after a week's rain, and no flood near me, I began to think it would not reach as far; on the tenth morning, however, I was undeceived. The river had risen 30 feet during the night, and was still increasing, though

the distance between the two places is not actually more than 70 miles in a straight line.

The last frost on the Downs in 1843, was August 18th, when I saw the buckets of water in the verandah of my hut covered with ice. The last frost in 1844 was on August 8th. The climate on the eastern side of the range is less agreeable though the seasons are more regular, and rains more frequent. The seasons are about three weeks earlier than on the Downs. It is a splendid agricultural district, though not so well suited for grazing purposes. I have seen magnificent tobacco there, and that it will be extensively cultivated I have no doubt. Sugar-cane, cotton, bananas, plantains, oranges, citrons, limes, loquats and coffee, have all thriven well: and it is in contemplation to make an experiment of rice in the low countries.

The Downs and Moreton Bay together are the finest district without exception in the colony. They can produce the best wool, fattest bullocks, and any vegetable production that all the others united can boast of. Their great drawback to advancement is the want of a commodious and secure harbour or port

for shipping their goods direct to England. Mr. Donaldson, has this last season sent "The Eliza Kincaid" to load there; but she cannot get within one mile of the shore, so that the wool has to be sent off in punts or transports. The river's mouth is choked up by a sandy bar, over which there are only 9 feet of water at high tides. A steamer of 110 tons goes over this once every month, and has hitherto with the aid of a few schooners taken all our produce to Sydney,—the expenses of which amounted to as large a sum as the freight, etc. from Sydney to England.

I must say a few words about our church management, in the wild Bush particularly. Our district was first settled upon in 1840. From that period up to the date of my leaving it in 1845, a Protestant clergyman had actually visited us *once;* had made a tour around many of the stations, had married one or two couples, and christened one or two infants. Never again since has a minister of the Church of England been amongst us: and I doubt if ever he will, unless it is to fill his pockets by persuasive appeals. It is a

truly disgraceful fact, that the sleepy defenders and advocates of our faith will look upon the zealous efforts of their Papist antagonists without feeling any of their ardour, or endeavouring to counteract the evils they may disseminate. We have a church at Moreton Bay, for the support of which every squatter readily contributed his annual subscription, under the belief that his station would be periodically visited by the clergyman ; but, owing to the lukewarm spirit manifested in Sydney for the cause, the squatters have become disgusted at their treatment, and have very generally withdrawn their support.

At nearly every establishment there are families ; and of course parents are desirous of having their children christened. Yet I have known a minister within fifty miles of the Station, refuse or neglect to go and officiate on such an occasion. I have known a minister again, gallop through the service as hard as he could, and when it was concluded, turn upon his heel and say, " There's one more Station settled." It is a shame in a country where religion has been

so little thought of—where the presence of a clergyman is so peculiarly required—where he is sure to be welcomed and respectfully entertained—and where his exertions would be gratefully acknowledged, and his toils handsomely remunerated—that there is no one to strengthen, exhort, or cheer man, by proclaiming the glad tidings of salvation on repentance. There is no place in the world perhaps better adapted for the conversion of a sinner than the Bush: alone for weeks, a man must meditate and cast many a retrospective glance to bygone days—to years of sin and wickedness, of folly and mispent time. He hears of religion and his bible, but never meets with a professor of the one, or an expositor of the other: he feels remorse and sorrow for his past life—wishes to reform, but knows not how; and all the good resolutions he has framed, are forgotten at the first public-house. Now a respectable minister, who will zealously engage in the task, and converse kindly with the men, will ever reap an abundant harvest of gratification to himself, and good will to his profession. He will wean many

from their seducing enemy, and strengthen others in their wavering principles. Oh! yes; it is a great shame that we have no proper persons to preach Jesus Christ in the wilderness, and to remind man that his prayers will be as acceptable, when made in the rude bark hut, or under the vault of heaven, as ever they could be if made in the noblest cathedrals. It is not in our districts alone that this neglect is felt; there is no resident clergyman above Scone on the Hunter's River; and over a distance of 300 miles there has seldom, if ever, been heard the voice of a preacher.

I have met Roman Catholic priests all over the country; they are always on the wing — itinerant ministers. And that is the style of person we want—a gentleman, yet one who would ride from station to station, an example of morality, and a patient expounder of the Word. I am glad of being able to say, that public worship is performed at many private establishments in our districts, and the Bush generally. Masters collect together as many of their men as possible on the Sabbath, and read the

prayers to them, sometimes adding a short sermon. The men are generally attentive, listen with pleasure, and the master gains respect and credit by his exertions.

Can men who have from their earliest infancy been religiously educated, or who from mere custom have imbibed a love for the performance of divine service, in a moment forget their old habits? No; the Sabbath is respected by the squatters: no unnecessary work is done; and it is a day on which *all* appear dressed in clean garments; —cleanliness is next to godliness, and were the latter preached more zealously and frequently, the manners, lives and behaviour of the wild Bushmen would be vastly ameliorated. I am truly glad to admit, that temperance is fast gaining strength everywhere.

'Tis impossible to describe the feelings, the anxiety, with which a man awaits the opening of a letter bag. Any brother squatter who is near the post-town becomes letter carrier for the rest, dropping those intended for his friends as he passes along. All fly to the opener—each detects a well-

known hand of parent, sister, brother, or friend, and hurries away to devour its contents in secret. Five years from home! in that time how many old, yet once familiar faces may have disappeared! how many new names have come on the scene, and how many cotemporaries carried off to their last bourne! According to the contents the spirits are light or depressed, and each returns to the common rendezvous to acquaint the others with his news. England, home and beauty, is the talk, and as every one knows more or less of the other's family, from being so much together — there is sympathy, consolation, or rejoicing, as the occasion demands. Any little present which has lately left the hands of a dear friend is turned over and over, marked and remarked — and valued indeed. To know you have some thoughtful persons who still keep you in remembrance is always gratifying, and consoling; and a little pin-cushion made by a sister 17,000 miles off, is hung over the stretcher with more care and attention than ornaments twenty times more valuable. It is a true saying, "That like a cooling stream

to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a distant land." Nothing can shew the affection of one person separated far from another more truly, than a constant communication; and to know how highly the letters are prized, and how happy are the countenances of those who are fortunate enough to receive them, would make any one delight in the correspondence. It is a great but irremediable annoyance to the squatter, that he can neither send or receive his letters punctually. He has to depend entirely on friends, who post or obtain any for him at the nearest town; and many are for weeks without hearing anything about them; till when at last they do come, they come in dray-loads.

"I see, my friend, that you are unlike your neighbours; inasmuch, as the natives appear quite at ease, and hail your return with smiles. I am glad to see you pity the weak; and that, 'taught by the Power which pities you—you have learnt to pity them.' I am curious to be acquainted with some of their peculiarities, their habits, and superstitions."

You shall be,—as far as my observation and experience of their customs enables me to offer an opinion. That they have some system of government is certain; and I believe it is by traditional authority invested in the persons of three chieftains. The oldest man in the tribe, who only retains the power of speech, and means of attending the council-fire, gives, by the veneration naturally attached to old age and its grey hairs, an impulse and sanction to affairs, which are usually followed up, and acted upon by his brethren in office. The next officer in importance is the 'Tanjoor,' or priest, or doctor, or lawyer, who assists at every ceremony, and is regarded with great reverence by the females, as well as men, inasmuch as the sanction of their ultimate disposal is vested in his hands.

Besides his official capacity, he is otherwise an important functionary. All those who are diseased, unhappy, wanting to marry, with cracked heads, or broken sculls, with a full set of teeth, or with the desire of losing one, make him their confidant; and thus he is intimately acquainted with the

feelings, wishes, loves and dislikes of the rest, and with the sagacity of a knowing politician, ready to avail himself of his knowledge to his own advancement and interest.

Out of curiosity, I one day pretended to be unwell, and shammed so exquisitely, that the venerable doctor thought I was ill. I waited patiently for the result: and as I imagined there was but *one*, universal cure, and that not an agreeable one — I was all anxiety. The part infected was my ear, no pulse felt — no tongue put out — such forms were despised; but, one hand seizing my chin, the other was applied with great vigour to the part affected — spittle was the ointment; hand was the means of applying it; and if ever a man wanted a stiff neck, I cannot recommend him a surer recipe; for I certainly thought that there was some truth in the homœopathic system, and that he would only end his operation by inflicting upon my poor ear the very disease I pretended to have; but fortunately had not. Though a physician for others, he was unable to cure himself; for, having one day left him my horse to take care of, while I was

otherwise engaged in the camp, I found he had ventured on his back; and the animal not being accustomed to such a freight, had thrown him off and caused a compound fracture of his arm; he was useless, and the only answer I obtained from him was cries and groans. A few pieces of bark were hastily stript, and bandaged firmly round with my neck handkerchief; the bone replaced as well as my knowledge of the art of surgery allowed, and within three weeks he was able to use it as well as before. Many a time afterwards he wished to repeat *his* cure upon me, but it would not do. On being asked if my ear was well, I always answered in the affirmative; and he seemed mightily pleased at the thought of having alleviated the pain and sickness of a White Man.

The third, though by far the most important man in the tribe is the Commander-in-Chief, or stoutest warrior in each camp. Out of deference to the two others, he listens craftily to their sager advice, and whether it is for peace or war, generally abides by their decision. He knows their

passions are as strong, and perhaps more strongly prejudiced than his own, for age has not softened those ideas, or removed those feelings which descended from their ancestors, and which during their own lives have only been confirmed by many circumstances. He listens, therefore, silently to all their opinions, giving as it were a casting vote; and until the blast of war blowing in his ears, summons up the blood, he restrains his passion and innate propensity for battle, contented with the ideas that it was not with his sole concurrence peaceable motives were adopted, and that he shewed not to his tribe any disinclination to engage, had the older hands deemed it expedient or advisable. He has scouts in every part of his dominions, who, by telegraphs, and other private signals, announce the arrival of strangers or foes, or every evening send up pyramidical smokes to indicate peace and quietness. He is generally to be found at the head quarters of the tribe, and consequently all the ladies travel with him, unless business of importance calls him away. His own share of wives is only

limited by his moderation and self-denial. The number of the royal harem varies from two to six; and the daily number of of wounds inflicted on each by their lord and master is in about the same proportion; nor are these wounds slight; but, as by Nature woman is the patient slave of man, —the poor thing receives these external tokens of her husband's love on her thick-sculled pate, with a coolness almost incredible, and a resignation utterly indescribable.

I have seen an interesting example of conjugal fidelity amongst these sweet creatures. A lady had been stolen by force from the embraces of her first lover; she had been taken from her own tribe, to be the spouse of another. No wonder then that she was not happy; for, simple as they are, these people take warm affections to some; and because she betrayed a little uneasiness, and a sulky negligence in procuring a daily supply of roots and fruits for her liege, though unloved lord, she was destined to receive so many cracks on her pate, that scarcely a single hair was to be seen from

the frequent strokes that had descended upon the unfortunate pericranium.

It is the duty of the chieftain or king to regulate the wanderings; and as they never remain two days encamped on the same spot, and, as every waterhole is known to each member, a single line drawn on the ground in the direction of the intended bivouac informs those who are not already acquainted with it, where the place of meeting is to be. He sees the provisions are properly and legally distributed, and as from their migratory habits the same country is never hunted over twice, but allowed to remain unsearched till its turn again occurs, there is no great scarcity anywhere: yet there are certain animals, and certain portions of their game, which are permitted only to the elderly men and women, and which use and custom deny to the younger members. It is a grievous crime to eat anything which ought to become the food of those, who from old age or other causes are unable to procure it for themselves, and it is the chieftain's duty to guard against such enormities and punish the offender.

Young men for instance may not eat emu's flesh, which is reserved for the elder, even tho' killed by the younger; yet if they can manage it on the sly, the hard earned delicacy is found too tempting to be resisted.

It is the chieftain's duty to make treaties with his neighbours, to invite them to his fires and to exchange "gins," to punish any invasion and for his own sake to check any rising spirit of insubordination. If one offends another, by his order the two fight it out, each armed with waddie, hielaman and knife (made of a sharp point of agate and fixed tightly by gums into a piece of wood as long as the hand); the insulted one's relations join against the offender, and if he bears his attack bravely and fights well, others are induced to take his part and either act as mediators or assist him, till the offended one makes a public announcement of having received satisfaction enough for the insult.

It is the chieftain's duty also to see that no one invades another's property; for as each family has a spot of land peculiarly its own, in their natural state no other of the tribe is allowed to poach on it, without per-

mission from the proprietors. This law, by general consent at their grand meetings is abolished; and as all are then assembled together at some common place reserved for such purposes, there is no limit to the country searched over, provided only sufficient game can be then collected. Moreover during any time of danger when they are all congregated, they without distinction hunt over any country they may have occasion to pass through.

It is the chieftain's province to be present at these ceremonies, and to see the honourable distinctions of scars and tattoes imposed, to see both the teeth knocked out, and the little finger of the gin amputated, and to convert boys into warriors. Therefore the chieftain is an important personage, usually attended by three or four of the stoutest of the tribe, who are ready to assist and support him; he is courted by all and respected too. He has of course an opposition party envious of his power, but as that is necessary even in a civilized government, it is not to be wondered at in a barbarous one. It keeps him within bounds,

and moderates his passion, it restrains his licentious propensities and teaches him to ingratiate himself with his fellows.

These three officials are the great men in the tribe, the last however not the least. They all have some name originating from a peculiarity of form, power of vision, agility or other circumstances, thus "Boralto," hump-backed, "Ioomgo," snake. There is no doubt of there being a system of clanship among them: thus in my own immediate tribe, there are three distinct orders or castes. "Terroein" or kangaroo, is the first order and best caste; "Moroon" or Emu, is the second order, somewhat inferior; "Pandur" or opossum, are the poorest race of men, who club together and follow as serfs in the train. These latter are the hunters, scouts, messengers and attachés; these are the lovers, who from their unfortunate birth are destined to sigh in vain, or only by bravery and heroic actions to obtain emancipation, and consequently the smiles for which they were languishing. That there is a clanship amongst them is positive, but their unwillingness to divulge any of their mysterious ways, renders it difficult to determine

to what extent the system is carried. This I know that it affects them in marrying. For instance a "Moroon" marries into the family of the "Terroeins" and his wife is called a "Terroeingan." Their offspring is called "Puntaran." A "Terroein" marries into the family of the "Moroon" and his wife is called a "Moroongan." Their offspring is called a "Pandur," the "Pandurs" marry amongst themselves, and their offspring is called "Pandarchan."

This last is the most numerous class, and therefore they are content with one wife; and perhaps that is the reason of their increasing so fast. A large family is three or four; but, after two children, the others are generally murdered, as "a gin" is not fond of having her "quiver full of them."

It is also difficult to define the extent of a tribe, their languages varying in dialect and conversation every twenty miles; although a tribe may be able to understand another one at a distance of one hundred miles apart, there is no other connexion with them, than by an exchange of gins, or boomerangs and other weapons; and they

seldom meet together unless for the arrangement of some dispute, or the forming a treaty of peace. If one neighbour, for instance, commit an act of encroachment on another, the preparation for war is made either by signal fires, or particular signs on trees, which assemble all the absentees; and the nearer the connexion of the two tribes, the oftener an engagement occurs. Their battles seldom terminate fatally, rarely more than one or two falling victims, though several cracked skulls and mutilations follow. A neighbouring tribe desirous of visiting another, after having sent a verbal announcement to that effect, proceeds with all their gins, accoutrements, &c.; on arriving within their neighbour's territories, a warrior emissary is dispatched to report progress; on his rejoining the remainder of his tribe, he communicates the result of his embassy, that the reception will be hospitable or not; accordingly they advance or retreat; if advancing, they proceed within sight of the fires, and patiently squat down till the chief of the visited tribe, after holding an harangue with his

fellows and obtaining their consent, steps forth to welcome and conduct them to his camp. Once thus received, they are considered as friends and guests, safe from any inhospitable treatment; their custom is as sacred as the Arab's eating salt, and is a ceremony so religiously and scrupulously observed, that I never heard of its having been violated.

A single man submits to the same ordeal, and dare not enter a strange camp till invited; even a white man, reduced to a choice of death by law, or black fellow, has attempted a junction and, having acted on this plan, has succeeded in being acknowledged as a member of it. At Moreton Bay, when the abominably necessary penal settlements were in vogue, for the reception of convicts reconvicted in the Colony, by reason of a too great extent of power and authority being invested in the hands of one man, monstrous cruelties in floggings and imprisonments were the consequence, and several to escape from Scylla ventured into the jaws of Charybdis. They stripped themselves naked, and throwing

their clothes, &c. into some pool or hiding place, appeared in sight of the camp; there they remained after having given notice of their presence by a shrill cooïey, and after a consultation were either acknowledged as members of the tribe or speared on the spot. The former has been the general alternative; a superstitious veneration being attached to the colour of the white man, which is the grand cause of the awe he impresses upon the blacks. It is their habit to take off the outer, true skin or cutis of any deceased warrior friend, and the second skin or *rete mucosum* by burns or scalds becomes white; they imagine the first white man they beheld to have been some one of their relations, who appears in the world again as a ghost or miraculous spectre. This accounts for their cowardice before us, and it is not to be wondered at when we consider the sensation "Wesley's apparition" created amongst our own countrymen.

During their travels they are continually burning the grass, and I have often seen the air for miles so full of smoke that the

sun was not discernible, and the rooms and huts were almost impossible to breathe in. At night the mountains and sloping hills were one continued flame, extending many miles, and bearing a strong resemblance to a large city beautifully illuminated. I have seen Ryde and Brighton from the sea at night, and though each of them had a glorious appearance, still the natural formation of the ranges forming an amphitheatre around the former place gave it a much more imposing character. The perfume arising from burnt grass is very refreshing and grateful early in the morning, when the dew is still upon it; it leaves, however, a very tenacious memento attached to the legs, &c. if you have occasion to walk through it.

The gins are the slaves of men; you may see a native accompanied by his own two or three gins and piccaninnies laden till they groan beneath the weight they have to carry; their noble proprietor stalking majestically by their side, as fine a picture of laziness and self conceit as one might wish to see. Not even a London or Parisian

dandy could have a better opinion of himself, or scent the air with a more exalted notion of what is sublime. The gins have to procure roots of all descriptions, and carry their lord's implements and property on their backs; they have to fetch water, and perform every menial office, except that of cooking, which the connoisseur performs for himself, in order that he may select any delicate morsel that tickles his fancy,—not subjecting himself to the chance of the same piece having attracted more admirers than one.

They are treated with great reverence, however, when too old and ugly to be useful; and it is to their musical voices, and garrulous propensities, that all the disturbances, fights, invasions, and revenge, owe their origin! inasmuch as at the commencement of any dispute the undecided warriors listen with mingled feelings of pride and vexation to the rebuke and imputations of cowardice, with which they are saddled. They sit apart, and recount the heroic deeds of war, the glorious struggles, and many battles in which their forefathers distin-

guished themselves: they tell the degeneracy of the tribe, their want of spirit, their forgetfulness of revenge and retaliation, and work the minds of their listeners to such a pitch of fury and excitement, that, as if by one common impulse they rise up, bury the tomahawk in the tree, tattoo the bark, sharpen the spear, and in a state of distraction bordering on madness, shout their infernal war cries, till the mania is universal. This done—their purpose gained, the ugly old ladies squat on their haunches, in a tailor-like fashion, and feasting upon the importance still attached to their ravings, and the victory they have gained by the use of their tongues, chuckle with inward delight at their successful harangue.

Again—they are generally the source of quarrel, of every row in the camp:—love, all-powerful love, is to be met with even in the savage's rude society. Young men of romantic dispositions, attracted by their beauties, and won by their smiles and piercing glances, cannot resist the dictates of nature. They see, they love, they conquer, and are conquered; and perhaps for

revenge are re-conquered by the injured husband. Decorated with the "Kalgree Piv," or necklace of rushes cut into little tubes of different sizes, and thrown gracefully round their necks in three or four circles—gins are considered either affianced, or actually married; in fact, when only children, and scarce off their mother's back, they are often betrothed to some other child of a favourite friend. At a very early age they lose the little finger of the left hand; by tying a string to it and tightening it every now and then, a way is cut through the finger imperceptibly, and without pain.

The gins are employed also as political agents; the present of a young gin to a neighbouring chieftain insuring his co-operation and assistance when required. Born to be the slaves of men, they generally perform their task as a matter of necessity —a fixed duty; with the knowledge that their mothers did before, and children after them will have to submit, to the same ordeal. Amongst their own sex they do not always confine themselves to words: with their grubbing sticks they enter the

lists, and fight with an ardour and spirit unequalled by the men. They are very cunning, reserved and sly before the men, but tremendous little flirts when an opportunity occurs.

They generally are singing some air, or talking some scandal. They have an affection for their offspring; but to what extent may be judged of by the following anecdote:—A blackfellow had seven puppies given him by a shepherd of my brother's, who was anxious to make away with them. The blackfellow gave them into his gin's care, with directions to nurse and rear them. She had been confined only a few days before this. I saw the puppies about ten days afterwards in her camp; they were all alive and thriving: but, horrible fact! I saw not the babe. On desiring to know the fate of the poor little thing, I was thus answered—"Wyemo oula me momcul picanniny, carbon budgeree dingo," which means, that Mr. Wyemo preferred the seven puppies to his child, and had made her kill it, so that the puppies might not be robbed of their food.

Again, it is well known that every half-

caste child is massacred on its coming into the world; but whether by father or mother, I cannot say. Still, I knew one young gin, named "Yeppoma," of the sweetest disposition, who saved a squatter's life by telling him of a plot, in return for kindnesses received; and who attended a sick parent with all the faithful care of a Christian daughter. She had no husband; therefore I cannot answer for her conjugal fidelity, or love of her offspring. In times of danger, when at war with the white man, they were always pushed forward, and sent to reconnoitre; the men knowing that we have a sincere respect for the sex, made their women a cloak for their cowardice. They are superlative beggars; but when they have obtained their desire, no thanks are returned; but where smiles were so lately beaming — a cool disdainful look follows, and they depart, impressed with the idea that the benefit they have received was nothing more than they deserved, and were legally entitled to.

They are peculiarly short, though muscular; plump, and shining from frequent

coats of oil; with good eyes and teeth; a nose as flat as a flounder's, and a mouth as wide as a bullock's. Their hair I have seen tastefully arranged and parted, sometimes hanging down in ringlets, and well saturated with grease, which gave it a magnificent polish. It is often very fine and thick, and not to be compared with the curly crisp hair of the African, as some have said. Like all blacks of all countries, they glory in white dresses, as a contrast to their black bodies; and anything bright or dazzling is considered a valuable possession.

Their arms are round and graceful; their hands small, and fingers tapering. The *toute ensemble* is prepossessing, and were it not for their colour and dirt, their undefinable character and eccentricities, and their unusual peculiarities, they would be interesting. Their feet are short, but very broad, owing perhaps to their want of confinement, and never being accustomed to shoes or sandals. However much you may have been prompted to sympathize with them, the spell ceases — the charm is broken, when you behold them at their meals. Taking

an entire opossum in their dirty paws, they apply part to the teeth, and with their assistance tear it to pieces; the gravy oozing out from each side of the mouth. They then proceed to devour it, for you cannot call it eating; munching and grinding like a pig, and making, if anything, more noise. Their "beautiful" mouths are covered with a compound mixture of ashes, earth and fat, the sight of which would deter the most faithful and zealous admirer from seeking a closer approximation of lips. Their legs are used as napkins or cloths after the feast; and this elegant scene it has been my fate to be a spectator of frequently.

If aught remains, it is deposited "higgledy piggledy," with ochre, paint, bones, skewers, and any other things that may happen to be in the same dilly or bag.

The generality of the men are well made, varying in stature from five feet six inches, to five feet eight inches, or even more—robust and active, very sleek and glossy, excessively lazy, though capable of enduring a vast quantity of fatigue and privation on an emergency. I have known them fast

for days when on some expedition, only appeasing their appetites by a tighter and tighter fastening of their opossum belts round their decreasing stomachs. This allays the pangs of hunger; but woe to the unfortunate kangaroo or animal that first falls to their chance! They stuff and gorge themselves to such a degree, that they are unable to move or stir, and appear drunken or debilitated by the quantity they have devoured. The lean paunch is converted into the "fine round belly with fat opossum lined," and in this state after a feast upon some of our bullocks they have generally been attacked.

Their skins, I before observed, are preserved, if the man was of importance during his lifetime; they recognise the doctrine of metempsychosis, or transmutation of virtues —not souls; for they believe any peculiar excellence of valour or eloquence, of power or skill, will remain with the possessor of such property during his life. They are, therefore, religiously preserved; and if handed down successively from generation to generation, what a wonderful man the owner must become at last! A funeral is a

scene worth viewing—I never saw one; but the following anecdote, which I heard from the mouth of a Roman Catholic dignitary, and afterwards often corroborated by others, gives us a beautiful and poetical idea. On the demise of one of the tribe, his arms, war instruments, and personal property are placed at sun-down on a funeral pile with the body: a circle is then described around the tomb, within which no one is allowed to intrude but the priest; who, when the setting sun proclaims the approach of evening, places a lighted torch in the hand, at the same moment igniting the pile: he waits till its flickering light vanishes; his eyes are then directed to heaven, and on beholding the *first* star in the sky, he exclaims,—"There he goes with his fire stick."

I have known again several funerals without any such ceremony. The bones are broken, and all collected into a bag or dilly, which is concealed in some hollow tree, or suspended in the air, and allowed to remain untouched, though not unheeded, by any passer by. If, during a march one

blackfellow is taken ill, either from old age, infirmity, or sickness, his friends — being obliged to proceed, lay in a circle within his reach a large supply of water in wooden "coolamen," (or hollow excressences lopped off the sides of trees) a goodly quantity of roots ready baked, and meat properly prepared. If he recovers from his illness, there is always a good supply for him; and if he does not, his remains are searched for, and carefully interred. They will risk anything to recover a dead body; and I have known them crawl, sneak and steal the corpses of those who had fallen victims to the white man's gun, in defiance of a sentry on the look out to give notice of such a visit. A man when once ill, and near the approach of death, lies down in the most composed and resigned manner, patiently awaiting the stroke, with all the piety and peace of mind that a Christian could feel on such an awful occasion.

The bodies interred within the hollow trees or suspended in the air, I have seen frequently in my travels, and was rather at a loss to determine what they could be;

whether they were placed there accidentally or intentionally, temporarily or for ever. Many however escape either end, for cannibalism is carried on to a great extent amongst them. They certainly do not eat relations, but each tribe devours the fat and young ones of a neighbouring tribe, whenever it can get an opportunity; and I am told by a man, who was fourteen years living with them, that human flesh was always considered a delicacy, and much esteemed; and that they were not only surprised, but angry with him for refusing to partake of their favourite repast. Certainly when encountered by a few blacks, being rather stout and corpulent, they always felt me, and with glistening eyes and eager faces, signed to each other their opinion that I would not make a bad dish. I generally took the hint and pointing to my body, and then to my mouth, I expressed my knowledge of their sentiments, and my disapprobation of them, to which with their wide mouths and white teeth they gave an ogre's grin.

It is an awful thing to reflect upon, though perhaps almost impossible to remedy; for

can anything be eradicated which has been warranted or sanctioned by the authority and influence of centuries? Witness New Zealand! it was the scheme and favourite topic of conversation amongst the Philanthropists, and as warmly taken up by our Bishop (Dr. Selwyn,) and his clergy afterwards, viz. that cannibalism was exploded from those shores. Time, however, that certain truth-teller, proved that the custom had only lain dormant for a while; for in the late disturbances it is a well-known fact, that an English officer and others were not only roasted but partially devoured. The New Zealanders are an enlightened race of men, in comparison with our poor Indians, and if superior understanding does not receive and acknowledge its error, how can we expect beings, who are but the connecting link between reason and instinct to be influenced by any example, or actuated upon by any argument, to forsake the ceremonies and superstitions that bigotry, force of habit, custom and ages have only confirmed them in observing.

That they have some sense of a preter-

natural power is certain; but it is equally certain that their ideas on the subject are very limited, proceeding only from ignorance, superstition and fear. I remember when the comet appeared March 2nd, 1843, that a general panic and wonderful terror prevailed amongst the Blacks. The unaccountable monster, the novel appearance, caused an awful alarm? What could it be? What could it mean? They had heard stories of an old man (the planet Mars) who wore a red beard and was very "saucy," carrying off gins and slaying those that opposed him: They had heard of the great kangaroo (Sirius), who walked upon earth and devoured whole tribes in his anger; but *such* a spectacle they had never seen before, nor had tradition handed down aught respecting it. What could it be then? Their simple nature, owning the agency of a superior cause, asserted it to be a ladder, which the "Kaiour" or devil-devil hung down from Heaven that all brave warriors and renowned chieftains might ascend by it. There was no harm in this to their untutored intellects; the idea is exciting even to philosophers and pleasing

even to a poet. Their cooïeys are not always what we understand by the word, viz. a call in which the first note is low and the second high, uttered after sound of the word coo-ïey. This is a note which congregates all together and is used only as a simple "Here." But each man's name or anything he may wish to say, or any intelligence he may have to convey can be carried by their shrill voices to the distance of a mile, thereby saving trouble, raising an alarm, or giving timely advice of any hostile approach. Private signals are often conveyed thus; and I well remember one calm night waiting the appearance of king Dicky to conduct us to his camp. Separated by at least a mile, questions were given and answered relative to our coming; one cooïey announced the arrival of a strange tribe, and that they did not relish the idea of our coming amongst them; another that the dance would not be ready for some time; another that they were beginning to paint and would light the fire immediately; another to ask the number of those who were coming to visit them, and a last one to

express their readiness to receive us all; at this hint we marched off, four in number escorted by our guide King Dicky, and armed with a pistol concealed in our belts: we approached the camp, our signal was given and answered, and we were soon surrounded by some thirty men, who were not engaged in the ceremonies, and ushered into the presence of the royal Harem. In the centre was a large fire; on one side were our own blacks, and on the other the men of the strange tribe, painted with pipeclay and red ochre, who had come over expressly to teach a new dance that had come down lately from the north country.

Tobacco was the cry, and, to obtain it, there was such an unpleasant approximation of persons, that it was almost impossible to breathe. Had our apparel been white, I know not what colour it might have been dyed; but as we only went to see some fun, and to act as peace-makers, we had not been over scrupulous in adorning ourselves. Divided into separate camps by one enormous fire, in a semicircle round which sat all the gins, thumping on opossum cloaks rolled up

tight and placed between their legs, were the two tribes. Our own, as the spectâtors or audience, stood a little in the background, in clusters of three or four, attentively observing the actions and attitudes of the dancers. One, the chieftain, advancing a little in front of the rest, with two Boomerangs, beat time as Coryphæus, and was soon followed by the whole orchestra of gins, vocal and instrumental, who thumped and and hummed, thumped and hummed, till the dancers were fairly tired. How these latter operators could possibly understand the time, my weak faculties could never comprehend, unless it was that the monotony itself explained the whole scene to be a mere repetition, and therefore it required no variety of tune. At the conclusion of each part, the audience shouted and beat their hands in token of approbation. As it was about this time, Mr. Isaac and myself was endeavouring to conciliate the natives, we found out on enquiry that it was owing to some depredation, committed ninety miles off, that they had favoured us with a visit. A field of tempting maize or Indian corn was not to

be despised, especially by hungry men, and unfortunately the watchman pounced upon the thieves laden with their spoil. They ran for their lives, and I do not believe they tarried to take breath or rest till they reached the Darling Downs. Having heard some soldiers, or "diamonds" as they call them, were on the road, they suspected that it was a party in search of the thieves, and they were greatly alarmed. They called upon us for assistance and protection, also for an immediate explanation. Upon that, standing at the fire between the two tribes, who were listening with breathless anxiety, we told them "that white man was very angry, but that he was always ready to forgive, if they did no more mischief; that white man did not want to kill black fellow, as long as he was good; and that, unless black man sharpened his spear, white man's gun would be quiet." They cheered, and were happier. The dance recommenced, and was more lively and spirited. Each of us had a circle of admiring friends, endeavouring to obtain all they could, and directing our attention to any beautiful part

of the performance. To me it appeared all the same: a quivering of limbs, a shaking of hair, a clash of waddie on hielaman, and sundry shouts in their wildest strains were the various changes. Seen in the background only by such light as the fire shed around, and surrounded on all sides by a dense scrub, every tree of which looked like a blackfellow, it was a curious and romantic revel. Notwithstanding that they were well aware of our having been two of their most active persecutors during the late wars, they had no feelings of animosity against us; having heard from our own blacks that we had given flour, bullock, and "Chimbacco" with a lavish hand, and that we were endeavouring to persuade our friends and neighbours to encourage them about their stations. One man had the mark of a bayonet in his side, which a shepherd of my brother's had run him through with, only three days before; having, as he reported it, found the said black in company with four others in the very act of tomahauking an old defenceless hut-keeper. With a most innocent look the blackfellow denied the accusation, while a fig of tobacco and a

few kind words of advice and sympathy entirely appeased any angry feeling. After the dance was over, each retired to his own private fire; it being understood amongst them that every man's camp is his castle, while he occupies it, and that no one intrudes himself uninvited. We visited each fire in turn, and found the two tribes still separate, but holding a conversation "à la distance."

The jabberings continued till one o'clock, when one by one the talkers fell asleep, and we were nearly the only watchmen. We therefore made signs to our guide Dicky, expressing our wish to return home, and thus ended a singular interview unpleasant to either party; since there was a mutual want of confidence sufficient to keep both of us on the *qui vive.* I forgot to say, that previous to our leaving home we had left two little boys as hostages, and had bargained with Dicky not to leave us a moment; knowing that while any of their tribe was with the white man, they would refrain from treachery, and that Dicky's presence would ensure a respectful attention.

On the appearance of a white man amongst

them for the first time, it is not to be wondered at that they should take alarm; for independently of their superstitious fear of the white skin, the huge monster sitting on a huger animal, as large as the "carbon big fellow" that wanders near the Western Lake, appears a solid mass, a fixture without division. They gaze in awe. Their fathers had told them of the large Emu, capable of carrying two persons, and running with incredible speed: had handed down legends of the "Water Kaiour," that drew under water a beautiful gin when fishing for muscles; had left accounts of some enormous animal, a solitary monster, who tore up trees and spouted out streams of water; but this was a new wonder: *quale portentum!* This was not a solitary spectacle! Herds of *four*-footed beasts, bellowing like thunder, shaking their heads, and tearing up the earth when sniffing the tainted air, with boomerangs on each side of their head to attack, and cloven feet to trample them down with; with a swinging waddie which seemed continually to menace, and a fleetness only equalled by the Emu: this was a new, unheard of miracle.

Hundreds appeared, yet on good terms with each other; and behind all three or four other things whose voices were perpetually roaring, and arms beating the air till it vibrated with one sharp continued crack: they were not black, yet apparently shaped like men; but who ever saw a man with four legs, and a body nine feet long, with two heads, one evidently that of a man, though it had no hair; the other that of an unknown monster? They seem to run at a tremendous rate, to twist, turn, wheel about, go here or there at pleasure, stand still on a sudden, or perform scenes as if by magic. In a minute, part seems to separate from the whole, to jump like a young kangaroo from its mother's pouch on the ground, to sit down like themselves, and to emit fire from its mouth: the better and larger half cropping the grass as quietly and inoffensively as the mildest Wallabi. All this is wonder then.

Behind appears a large piece of wood, hooded like a "Gunyia" or "Umpee," and supported by round things that revolve regularly: in front are several more monsters, all joined together in a string as if one body, and longer than ten spears. They

walk with as many legs as a centipede, and seem to be part of the wooden "umpee." They follow after the first herd, and stop when it stops. They are accompanied by shouters, emitting fire from their mouths; and the whole stops as by unanimous consent at some waterhole, which appears to sink rapidly under the incessant and enormous draughts taken from it.

The curtain is now drawn. The scene is explained. The things fastened to the huge animal drop off their seats: the long string of monsters is unloosed, and allowed to wander over the plain: the whole living herd is scattered far and wide. Immediately a fire springs up, and a group of men with white faces and bodies covered, not with loose opossum cloaks, but tight skins are seen around it. The whole party suddenly squats down; they are preparing to eat; but no scent of kangaroo or emu, fish, or muscle: curiosity is again awakened; it must be satisfied; but fear predominates. Instead of black, their colour is almost white. Signal fires ascend; the tribes assemble; universal terror prevails. Images

in representation of the new monsters are made, boughs and saplings are formed into well-shapen horses and bullocks and set fire to. The Tarjour is consulted; they gain courage. They were men like themselves, but white; were not their own dead friends stripped and their bodies white? "They are returned to visit us. We will go and receive them, if they come as friends; and if they come as enemies, spear them." A few crawl, creep near and nearer, shaking and trembling. The hobbled horse sniffs, snorts, pricks his ears, and gallops off, his fettered legs making a continual clank. The cattle scent them, bellow, tear up the dust, and scamper off. They approach the fire, not unobserved; they give their shrill cooeys, which are answered. A gun is fired over their heads: the flash is seen, the report is heard: 'tis thunder: down they fall, half dead with fear, and trembling. They recover and find none hurt; they advance again and find the white man's camp small, but still they fear to enter it. *One* man leaves the camp to meet them, pipe in mouth. One man to meet so many! They see and

remark all; their wonder is increased. All tends to convince them that some supernatural power has come amongst them. So few against so many! Their thunder kills the monstrous animal, the smallest bird, or buries itself in the hardest trees, that no spear can enter. Wonderful! they retreat in awe! and is it to be wondered at? They see men taking fire out of their pockets and eating it, they see them put it into a long stick, apply it to their eye, and it makes a noise like thunder, and kills like lightning.

This is a slight description of the black's feelings at the first sight of a white man, his herd, and teams. No wonder then that they are impressed with an awful dread and fear. They see, they hear, they feel, they touch, and they smell new objects worthy of reverence, and thus bewildered out of their five senses, is it to be wondered at that they are cowards?

Their first impressions are exaggerated by circumstances. They see no party preparing for the hunt; they observe no gins or piccaninnies. Everything is new, and as if by magic the whole procession is put in

motion on the morrow: curiosity still attracts them on: the same show is repeated, the same routine observed; but no animosity is shewn. Encouraged by sundry invitations one or two bolder than the rest enter the white man's camp: they are invited to sit down: they receive meat and drink and are perhaps presented with a tomahawk. "Ugh! Yah!" are the only exclamations they can utter, but they feel the sharpened edge, its hard substance, and instinctively divine its use; their glistening eyes express what words cannot; they return to their own party, shew by signs and drawings the wonders they have seen, and report perhaps favourably of the new arrivals. They received no violence, but were welcomed and fed. They managed by subtlety to carry off between their toes a few pieces of iron such as are used in the tomahawks. "White man stupid; not see, for the grass was long. We might trail along the ground our spears till we come within reach, and they thinking us unarmed will shew no disinclination to receive us. Their food is good and plentiful; their drink sweet as sugarbag; we can steal

along and perhaps secrete a few valuables." This is the commencement of evil; they do steal, and are punished therefore: they take an early dislike to their aggressors, and their aggressors to them. They have no ideas respecting the eighth commandment; far from imagining that any respect is due to private property, they consider all common; and this propensity is the cause of our frequent quarrels and their domestic warfare.

Their mode of courtship is often singular; They have seen a young gin at a neighbouring camp; they steal like a snake through the grass and pounce upon the victim in the middle of the night; and if she is averse to the elopement inflict so many tremendous blows on the head that she soon becomes a *nolens volens* prey to her new spouse.

Their regard for deformities is very great, and no doubt superstition has something to do with it; Men who are so frequently climbing trees, or gaining their livelihood by dangerous means, must often receive some falls and injuries: they are taken the utmost care of, fed, petted and nursed as inva-

lids. Little children often receive wounds, fractures, or other severe bruises; they are likewise tenderly reared, and, receiving a name from their peculiarity, assume airs which no others dare.

Their mode of climbing trees is twofold, either by aid of a strong and tough vine (clematis) from the neighbouring scrubs, which, knotted at one end, they throw round the trunk of the tree, and pull themselves up by: or by notches cut with an agate or quartz tomahawk into the bark of the tree; either way is very laborious, and requires great exertion, but custom is everything and hunger an exquisite stimulant.

Their mode of obtaining opossums is by going all round the root of a tree, which has a few decayed branches, or holes in it; young trees are passed by of course; they then search diligently, and if amongst all the old tracks fresh and green ones are seen, they ascend and very seldom fail of pulling out their prey. In days of yore it was customary to make a little hole in the bottom of the tree, a waddie (or hard stick) having been first struck against the side to prove

where the hollow or decayed part ended, by the sound; here then the hole was made and a fire stick inserted. As the decayed matter inside is very combustible, it ignites and blazes too in a moment, the smoke escaping by all the natural chimneys, or branches, and driving out the poor animal which is immediately knocked down by a boomerang. Their way of obtaining grubs is by walking round the roots of trees, and on observing the dust, they are immediately aware of its cause and act accordingly.

Their way of getting muscles, is by probing with the fingers or toes in the muddy banks, and making use of either extremities as the forceps to pluck them forth.

They have a great regard for Albinos; I have often heard of them; and their colour is generally the result of sickness. Well do I remember a report reaching us that a white woman had been seen amongst the blacks, quite young and delicate. An inn-keeper, who had suspicions that a daughter of his had been forcibly carried off by the blacks, was very urgent in his enquiries, and search after the truth. Seve-

ral parties went out without success; but at last the supposed white was discovered to be an old gin, full of wrinkles and nearly toothless. Her skin was of a sickly pale white; but her eyes and hair were black. This therefore was a native Albino, preserved and attended to by the blacks with every care and attention. Any peculiarity attracts their attention:—a man with one eye, or a big toe; a lunatic, or madman, are all alike venerated. I have seen instances of each; their voice was heard as loud, or louder than the rest; and their opinions received with every attention. It reminded me of "Phiz's" caricature of the Marching Regiment, where no one seemed to enter into the spirit of the thing so warmly as the Idiot.

I fear the women are frequent murderers of their children; they certainly are often in the way ladies should be that love their lords, but the living image is not so often seen. I never saw a larger family than four; and yet to assert these poor creatures have no feelings, no affections, no love, would be as uncharitable and unnatural, as it is false and untrue. Their language is very soft,

and spoken by a pretty or young gin, interesting. In fact, I have known these sable ladies gain such dominion and authority over their white protectors by their mellifluous and pleasing manner of speaking English, that they are ever missed when absent, and duly appreciated when present.

Gourĭe, Wombārā, Tummăvĭ'lle, Yāndillă, Bōyĭăĭă, Cōolcārbĭllĭ, Woōgŏorŏo, Mĕinībăr, Kāmbŏĭĕh, "Gōănbyānhă," are a few harmonious instances of the names of peculiar spots in our district. Yēppŏmă, Quīndāyĕă, Anĕmō, Coŭlkimbă, Nĕangăn, Tĕrŭlĕ, are a few of the ladies names. Coōmbāyăn, Cunnĭmŏ, Cărĭndŭ, Endārra, Moutĭtă, Wāomŭlĭōv are a few of the men's names; and far from sounding unpleasantly to my ears, they delight by their soft and musical accentuation and utterance.

I have often wondered at the origin of their language:—"gin," or woman is not far-fetched, if supposed to be derived from "γυνη." Eurunbal, might have its theme from "ευρυς and αλς," or again, a broad lake; "ευρυς and βαλλω," it being a very good throw across it. Again, I have heard a friend of

mine in Sydney, a man of great abilities, attributing its origin to Persian; he quoted many words of the same meaning, which were very similar one to the other; but "*unde derivatur, nescio quid dicam.*"

The ornaments are simple, but curious. The scarifications inflicted with a sharp piece of quartz and only perforating the skin are the first grand distinction; every tribe has a different style of tattooing. The marks denominate the clan—*vice* tartan not known there. Some of the weals rise an inch above the skin, and last for life, becoming quite hard. The hair is often supported in a sugar-loaf, or conical shape, by a tuft of grass placed in the middle, and bound together by strings made of opossum fur. This is in time of war, or festivity. The younger men wear a piece of rock crystal, or oyster shell, or mother-o'-pearl, suspended round their necks — this is a charm to keep away the evil spirits, and much valued. I have seen mother-o'-pearl 100 miles inland; proving that there had been intercourse between the two tribes. The nose is perforated when young, and becomes the bearer of

another ornament neither elegant nor useful. A piece of kangaroo bone, polished and pointed, is worn there, or not, at pleasure.

Their organs of sight are very acute; but I do not consider it wonderful, as their whole subsistence depends upon it; as from their earliest infancy they have been accustomed to bush objects, and bush scenes — and as hunger alone will sharpen their eyes, to satiate the cravings of an empty stomach. Even a white man who has been three or four years in the bush can track, or observe an object twice as far as a man who has never been in before. A regular old hand will often track a bullock, or horse, as keenly, but not quite as perseveringly as the native. In our skirmishes with them, we generally employed our boys from distant tribes to act as trackers, and they were as true and steady as blood-hounds on the scent. Having taken three prisoners one day, two were committed for trial immediately. The third was fastened side by side to a white man, armed with a cocked pistol, and ordered to conduct us to his own camp on risk of his life. We were dubious as

to the result; the majority of our party thinking that he would not betray his friends.

He certainly took us to *a* camp — but it was deserted; and without any thanks to him we descried a smoke rising a little way off. This was *the* camp. We rushed on to attack it; and, having cut the bonds asunder that connected black to white, the fellow bolted, shouting the alarm cry. We had notwithstanding, ample revenge; for an assault they had attempted on fourteen white men engaged in washing sheep in the bed of a river, from the overhanging heights of which they were in the act of throwing their spears, when they were discovered and beaten off, with great loss.

The patience of these poor fellows is remarkable: they will endure any fatigue, if the object appears honourable. They will carry out any plan with unremitting assiduity, and rarely fail in attaining it. Had they bows and arrows indeed they would be formidable foes; had they the white man's gun they would become valuable soldiers.

I wish to ask one question:—Is any por-

tion of the money collected according to the tenor of the New Regulations to be applied to the protection, support, or benefit of the blacks? I have not heard so; but I hope they will not be forgotten. I have often thought that a commissioner well acquainted with their habits, and feeling, as many men do, a real interest in their welfare, might be appointed to reside at some fixed spot — to receive out of the tax a kind of black mail, in the shape of sheep, flour and clothing; of which by a well-aranged distribution he might controul their feelings; awe them, or win them over to obedience and propriety of behaviour, and by retaining hostages prevent any recurrence of hostilities. It should be his duty to punish the blacks for any ill-conduct, by getting the chieftains to give up the offenders; it should also be his office to see no black insulted or maltreated without demanding and exacting the penalty.

This I think would be a good plan. Let the asylum be in some central situation, where many roads meet, and the squatters could easily drop their subscriptions as they

sent their drays for supplies, etc. This is a charitable and only just plan: the native owners would then receive some compensation for the use of their soil; and the compensators might not grumble at its being so profitably expended.

In conclusion though it is almost useless to revert to bygone days and actions, yet it is a painful reflection that so many hundred of these poor creatures have been sacrificed. I regret that I have been their enemy and for three years a bitter one. Yet the safety of our lives and the preservation of our flocks and herds demanded forcible measures. Fancy thirty-five white men killed in our district alone! of course we had revenge; and whoever imagines that we acted cruelly or hastily, I will advise and strongly recommend him to go out and subject himself to a few of the like trials a squatter has to experience, and if his spirit of benevolence and philanthropy is not much altered, he must surpass Job both in patience and moderation.

But cannot a remedy be proposed to prevent a recurrence of such painful measures?

I think it possible, but it will require patience, perseverance and a zealous enthusiasm in furtherance of the object.

A man unacquainted with their habits, or unaccustomed to the life they lead, had better remain at home. It would take him years before his services could at all be appreciated. The only person fit for such employment is the man who feels himself called to it, or who would volunteer. There are many who feel a kindly regard for them, and would greedily hail the opportunity of befriending them if their time and hardships were remunerated. I trust if England recognizes them, as Human Beings, she will exert herself to amend their situation, otherwise they must be shot as they have hitherto been, in self defence.

If she considers them as many do. a species of *simia acaudata,* or tail-less monkey, of course they will be hunted down and exterminated. I have known instances of great talent displayed amongst them. One native took away the first Prize at the Sydney college some years ago, and otherwise distinguished himself.

It is a singular fact that has come under my observation, that the Maitland and William's blacks in their wild state are not near so fine a race of fellows as those about Port Macquarie and the New England districts. Again these latter are decidedly inferior to their sable friends on the Clarence, who in their turn are eclipsed by the Moreton Bay and Darling downs tribes. To the northward again I saw a group of twenty-four men, as fine a set of able bodied men as one could wish to look at, and I do not think any blacks I have seen are to be compared with them. Their colour was a few shades lighter, and their weapons for the state we found them in were superior. At port Essington I am informed by Mr. Gilbert, that the blacks are a very superior race to any he has seen in the lower countries; and that the weapons, arms, etc., brought into the settlement were finished off with fine agate points and beautifully carved. Moreover by the same authority I was informed that they had incipient huts, not temporary gunyas, as we are in the habit of seeing, and which Sir T. Michell describes as villages,

of well organized and strongly constructed houses, in a dome shape, and that they are fixtures occupied for weeks and months. By this I do not intend to say but that we may find as fine specimens in the low countries, but taking into consideration, the extended intercourse they have now enjoyed with white men and comparing them with their elder brethren, I think the farther we advance to the North, the finer, nobler, stronger and more intelligent race appears.

I mention this as a prelude to an idea I have long indulged in; viz. that this colony has been peopled by a more civilized race of beings than now inhabit it; that they have degenerated as they retreated; and I further am inclined to believe that either this Main land was at one period annexed to Timor, or that communication and colonization went hand in hand. On Captain Cook's passage through the Torres Straits, he makes mention of proas having been seen one hundred miles from land, and they might have been bound to Australia.

NORTHERN EXPLORATION.

Route to the North-West from Jimbour.

To the Editors of the 'Sydney Morning Herald.'

Gentlemen,—Imagining you may take an interest in the fate of the expedition under Dr. Leichhardt, I beg to forward to you a short sketch of our proceedings, up to the period of my leaving them.

On October 1st, we left the last inhabited station on the Darling Downs, and after proceeding for seven miles N. W., over a most beautiful plain, camped at a small creek, running from the main range: Craig Range bearing N. 65° E. Thermometer, sundown, 58°.

October 2.—Our bullocks lost. October 3.—Thermometer, sunrise, 32°. We started to-day, N. W., over a lightly-wooded box-flat country, abounding with melon holes, when, after a few pleasant interruptions in the way of bullocks kicking off their loads,

ROUTES TO THE NEW WEST FROM PHILADELPHIA

we were stopped by an impenetrable rose-wood scrub, running north and south. Skirting it down for about five miles, the beautiful feed invited us to stop, after a day's journey of fifteen miles. The mosquitoes from the swamps *corroboreed* with unmitigated ardour. Thermometer 63°, sunset.

"October 4.—Thermometer 60° sunrise. We started at half-past ten, skirting the scrub over the same low, lightly-timbered country, for about ten miles, in a south-west direction, when a beautiful chain of ponds, surrounded with islands of myall and vitex scrubs, induced us to camp. The chain of ponds we conjectured to be the back water of the Condamine River. Thermometer, sunset, 51°. We were fortunate in killing a kangaroo, *Marcropus ma.*, and a kangaroo rat, *Bettonga rufescens*, which, notwithstanding the heavy thunder-storm pouring upon us, we unanimously pronounced exquisite.

"October 5.—Thermometer, sunrise, 57°. We followed down this chain of ponds for about eleven miles; course, S. 75° W. The

country was of a very rich description. The same beautifully scattered islands of myall and vitex; the white lotus, *Dodonœa,* and orchis, *Diuris,* enlivened the scene. We met with enormous muscle shells of great thickness. The soil was a rich clay, with concretions of marl and granules of quartz. Thermometer, mid-day, 84°.

Sunday, October 6.—Thermometer, at sunrise, 45°. This day we spelled. The Doctor, Mr. Gilbert, and myself, in our search into the scrub, met with a delicious smelling tree, much resembling the orange; a *pittosporum* and *myoporum.*

Monday, October 7.—Thermometer, at sunrise, 41°. Started early, and after following the chain of ponds two miles, we had the satisfaction of seeing the deep-sloping sides of the Condamine, still preserving its wonted character; the casuarina pal. and yarra, lined the banks, which were of porcelain, or porous, sandstone. We met with an accident to-day; passing through a patch of rosewood scrub, which came too close to the river to admit of our eluding it, some of the bullocks proved unruly, and in a very

playful manner eased themselves of their packs, which we had to collect and replace. Flour was the principal loss. The Conda mine, where we came upon it, was running N. W., therefore, after following it down eight miles, we camped; sundry tracks of natives visible, and Charlie, unseen, saw two hunting opossums.

"Sunday, October 8.—Thermometer, sunrise, 37°. At half-past seven, after a meal of porridge, we proceeded down the river-course ten miles, W. by N. Two of our bullocks, not with their own goodwill, very suddenly vanished from our anxious eyes, having nearly met a similar fate to that of poor Edgar Ravensworth's. After some searching, we found them taking it very quietly, and apparently quite unconcerned. We eased them of their loads, which were uninjured, and drew them on to *terrâ firmâ*. The islands or groups of myall still beautifully with us, and the feed on the opposite side of the river appeared equally luxuriant. Thermometer, sunset, 64°. The ventriloquist gave us his cheering song, and

the screeching cockatoo gave frequent indications of his presence.

Wednesday, 9.—Lat. 26° 49′ 9″. Thermometer, 63° sunrise. Commenced packing at half-past five. The natives camped close to us. We travelled to-day about ten miles — eight miles north-west, and two north-east; passing over alternately sandstone ridges, myall brushes, and pure rich sandy flats, with excellent feed. Camping at two o'clock, thermometer 113°, at a small lagoon surrounded by the fragrant vitex, much resembling in scent our own sweet violet. This day we left the Condamine, it having made a decided turn out of the course, to the west and south-west.

Thursday, October 10. — Thermometer, sunrise, 58°; started at half-past eight, and in one mile came upon a high banked, rocky, running creek; the first of importance since our departure, running north and south; this the Doctor named Charley's Creek, he having been the first discoverer. Crossing that and pursuing the same course, we passed through a beautiful green valley,

abounding with two species of vitex, jasmenum, an elegant and new stylidium, and two species of dionylla; then over sandy flats and ridges for a distance of eight miles, abounding with Jacksonia, calytris, eucalyptus resinifera. At two o'clock, thermometer 84°, we fortunately came upon water, having made altogether thirteen miles.

"Friday, October 11.—*Dies carbone notandus!!* From this camp called 'Disaster Camp' or 'Kent's Lagoon,' from the circumstance of some excellent chocolate, kindly given us by Mr. Kent, of Moreton Bay, being for ten days our meat and almost sole food; therefore a name we unanimously assented to; we started N. W., when a brushy place of casuarina, acacia, and calytris arenosa met us — it was entered; certainly a false alarm of 'clear a-head,' cheered us on; but like Napoleon's cry of "Grouchy," when it proved false, it did us no good. The scrub became all pine, full of water-holes; numerous bags were torn, and numerous bags were mended. A melaleuca scrub, very interesting, but not when pack-bullocks are carrying your provisions, changed the scene.

On we went till three o'clock, when, the bullocks too sulky to advance, and ourselves, each with two horses, almost knocked up, we came back again, part camping in the scrub, part returning to the lagoon of October 10. Upon calculation, 150 lbs. flour alone was lost on this memorable day, or more than the proportionate allowance for one man the whole journey.

The three great events, for they were events to us, during these ten days, were the loss, for three days, of Master John Murphy, and Caleb, the American, whom Mr. Roper, Charlie, and myself, found the third day, making a hearty meal off a roasted guano; the four days' rain; then the perpetual loss of horses and bullocks. The detention could not have taken place on a less interesting spot. Certainly we found the *sterculia*, or bottle-tree, a new myrtaceous, and a new proteaceous plant, (in flower); we found also a graceful pendulous hakea. We were delayed here ten days.

Monday, October 21.—We started north-east; after six miles a creek, running from the north-west, pulled us up; we followed it

up four miles, and then camped. I killed to-day a small snake, with rudimentary feet, colour white, belly brown, snout and head very pointed, length fourteen inches. The country all the same; full of casuarina torulosa, calytris aren., and Jacksonia; the pennate acacia very beautiful.

Tuesday, 22.—Made ten miles over the same country; nothing of interest occurred; blacks' fires in the distance; very hungry —hunger an excellent sauce; mem. write to Hervey.

"Wednesday, 23.—The thermometer was unfortunately broken by a fall from a tree, to which it had been suspended. Started at half-past seven N. W., over the same style of sandy detestation, till we came on a beautiful creek, running S., which the Doctor named "Acacia Creek." After three miles it effected a junction with a larger creek running from the N., which was named "Dogwood Creek." Having made nine miles we camped on this creek, which, had it not been for the rotten sand, the numerous flies and the very great emptiness of our lean bellies, we should have pronounced

a pleasant spot; but the disagreeable trio would not admit of our sanctioning such a pronounciation. However, we met with a new eucalyptus, belonging to the same section as the bloodwood — the bark scaly, the wood close, the seed vessels similar. The sterculia or bottle-tree is a very singular curiosity. It generally varies in shape between a soda water and port wine bottle, narrow at the basis, gradually widening at the middle, and tapering towards the neck. Its girth in the middle may vary from twenty to thirty feet; its height from fifteen to thirty feet. The leaves are generally few and spreading regularly into an umbrella shape. The seed vessels are from three to five, all on the same stem. The edible part is after the first scaly bark has been taken off, and reminds one of a mixture of flour and milk — being a white gelatinous sap, which by boiling might be brought to produce something good. The fusanus in fruit: the size of the fruit about that of our English crabs, the colour red, the taste bitter and acrid, growing on shrubs of about eighteen feet high with cedar like

leaves. The seed apple of the fruit was woody, and in three divisions. This day the Doctor proposed the return of some of the party, owing to our misfortunes, our delays, and want of animal food. Camped at a lagoon on the table land; the range, from the excessive cold, we concluded to be high table land.

October 27. — Very cold; cold bleak wind; made four miles northerly; then meeting with our old familiar friend, the scrub, we had to tack ship, and after making five miles S. E., camped at a fine lagoon on the table land; the grass was awfully high, the timber very large, and the night very cold.

Thursday, 24.—Lat. 26° 26′ Very fortunate in our botanical researches. The Cymbidium, mesembryanthemum, Kennedya, grevillea, Hibertia, centaurea, boronia, Xylomelum, Stylidium, lasiopetalon, lobelia, sida, were among the many. The country was full of lagoons and small creeks running S. W. The fire of calytris quite scented our camp and the predominance of that tree gave the Doctor a reason for applying to

the country the elegant name of Calytria. The old crow found us out, but appears a rare visitor in these parts deserted by all life; three miles N. W. was our extent of journey.

Friday.—Made eleven miles due N. W. to day over alternate sandstone flats and ridges. The sandstone is porous, and water-courses abound with very heavy ironstone. Camping this night at the head of a large creek, the shooting party discovered a N. W. branch, which appeared a very grand creek still running S. W.

Saturday, October 26. — Lat. 26° 15′. We started four and a half miles N.W. over a rising country, till we came suddenly upon the first view we had enjoyed since leaving Jimbour; though limited and of very inhospitable appearance, it was a treat. About eight miles straight a-head rose very high clear land; but between us and it was a great gulph fixed. A long deep valley of acacia scrub stared us in the face, which, after trying to penetrate, was found too thick. Therefore, having satisfied our empty stomachs with nutritious quantities of bottle-tree and Fusanus, we returned.

Monday, 28.—Made five miles W. by N., when we came on a creek, supposed to be the head of Dogwood Creek; scrub still all round us. The Doctor thought it time, and the place convenient, for trying the experiments of drying the beef: so, whilst he and Mr. Calvert were out exploring, we killed the steer kindly presented to the party by Mr. Campbell. We had been now nearly ten days without animal food, and we certainly did justice to poor "Redman." After dark the Doctor returned, with the gratifying intelligence that a passage was practicable through the scrub — that we were on the main range dividing the northern and southern waters — and that there was every probability of proceeding well, and in a due course. Mr. Gilbert caught a small fish, answering to the grystes of Sir T. Mitchell.

Tuesday, 29.—All hands busily employed in cutting, maiming and dissecting; each separate sinew was separated, and cut into strips of eight inches long and half an inch thick; these were immediately laid upon poles, and kept constantly turned. It took us from sunrise till four o'clock to finish it,

and the appearance of the camp savoured much of a butcher's shop. So the wild blacks thought, for the scent brought them to our feast, which they seemed very anxious to partake of. They went away at sundown, quite peaceably : they were the first living things, with few exceptions, we had seen.

Monday, November 4. — I was absent from the camp with Charlie in search of the horses, and returning home, without having had anything to eat for three days, I was pleased to hear that the beef had succeeded in everything but quantity : 65 pounds were preserved. After a long talk with the Doctor, who seemed to feel he had done wrong in increasing his party, and a tacit agreement with Mr. Gilbert, who as an ornithologist and collector for Mr. Gould was a great acquisition to the party, I agreed to return to Darling Downs, taking with me on my spare animal an American blackfellow.

I arrived safe, having performed in two days the distance which had taken us five weeks to perform. My courses were, S. 40 E., the last twenty miles due E.

The party were all in excellent health,

good spirits, and sanguine as to the result, which I hope will be satisfactory.

And now, gentlemen, I am nearly tired of writing — so must conclude with my conclusions, which are these :

1. That the head of the River Darling is now decisively and satisfactorily determined :

2. That the River Condamine is that true head :

3. That the high range we saw and skirted is the great barrier between the northern and southern waters. The range was running west. The northern waters were, at several times, by different excursion parties, observed. The same was the opinion of all ; and if the party have as good luck now as they have had bad luck to the period of my leaving them, they may have got upon the head of some river leading into the Gulf of Carpentaria.

I left the party with 800 lbs. flour, 180 lbs. sugar, 65 lbs. tea, and 160 lbs. shot.

If they succeed, they will have to undergo unparalleled hardships ; and no one wishes more sincerely for their safety, and regrets more bitterly the necessity of his return, than myself.

If this is worth your reading, pray insert it, as also the accompanying note from Doctor Leichhardt.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
CHRISTR. PEMBERTON HODGSON.

I left the party in lat. 26° 12′, long. 150°. November 17.

" Dried Beef Creek, November 3.

" As the unexpected want of game compels me to decrease the number of my party, and as, with the equal wishes of *every one* to proceed, the *last* comers should go first, Mr. Hodgson complies with my request to return to the Darling Downs. He is accompanied by Caleb, the black cook, for whom it was particularly desirable to return, as he was badly provided with articles of clothing for such a long journey. Mr. Calvert, Mr. Roper, John Murphy, Phillips, the two black-fellows, and Mr. Gilbert, are therefore the remaining members of my party.

" LUDWIG LEICHHARDT.

"I cannot omit mentioning that Mr. Hodgson has kindly left a great number of things belonging to his personal outfit, to the use of the proceeding party, who join in thanks with myself."

MORETON BAY.

To the Editors of the 'Sydney Morning Herald.'

JUNE 6.

In consequence of the recent rumours, which every week has only tended to substantiate, respecting the fate of Dr. Leichhardt and party, a meeting was held yesterday, at Bow's Victoria Hotel, Brisbane, for the purpose of devising some means for ascertaining their supposed fate, subsequent to Mr. Hodgson leaving the party. From the general feeling evinced by all parties in this district at the commencement of the Doctor's expedition much interest has been excited by his probable fate. The chair was taken at one o'clock, by Mr. Thomas Adams,

solicitor, of this town, who opened the proceedings of the meeting by alluding to the rumours from time to time circulated on the Downs relative to the parties composing the overland expedition to Port Essington, having been cut off by the blacks, and urging the necessity for humanity's sake to devise means to accomplish the object in view, namely, the ascertaining, if possible, their fate. A letter from Mr. F. N. Isaac, of the Downs, addressed to Mr. C. P. Hodgson, was read to the meeting, an extract of which is as follows :—

"As you may be asked in Sydney as to the nature of the reports brought in by the blacks, I may as well tell you (though perhaps you may have heard it before), that on my return here I found that some myall blacks, belonging to the north-west of Chimbore, had been in and told the following story to our blacks: they said, (after describing the pass between the scrubs as the others did), that Leichhardt after arriving at the head of the creek camped, made his fire, tethered and hobbled his horses and bullocks, and then leaving the camp with only

one or two in charge—went away with the rest of his party to the top of a very high hill. During his absence, the blacks who had followed him in the scrub unseen, rushed upon the camp, which they plundered of every thing, and then put out the fire with water, and heaped earth on it. Dr. L. and his party on arriving near his camp were of course thrown into confusion, and the blacks under cover of the scrub speared them all; this report I mention because I think, supposing it to be true, we can readily imagine that all the bullocks and horses being hobbled might be killed without difficulty, and it agrees so perfectly with what you say Dr. L. used to do, namely, go-a-head to see the country, and thus dividing his party, which was not under any circumstances large enough; I have heard many other particulars, but have not room to mention them. The name of the hill which Dr. L. ascended is Queeing, and the creek he encamped on runs into the Balloon or Condamine.

"P. S. I have had offers of rations and money in plenty for the expedition, and

many would volunteer, but horses are wanted, and that is our only drawback. You will observe the report differs in nothing from what they heard before; but is much more concise, and explains many (previously) doubtful points."

At the conclusion of the above letter being read, Mr. C. P. Hodgson observed, that he had hopes that even if the reports were true, an expedition starting at once might find some of the party still alive. He (Mr. H.) was about proceeding to Sydney to embark for England, but if funds could be raised to fit out an expedition, he would willingly return and conduct the party to the place where he last left Dr. Leichhardt. (This proposal was received by the meeting with every mark of approbation.)

The first resolution was moved by H. C. Isaacs, Esq.; and seconded by John Richardson, Esq.:

"That this meeting has heard with regret rumours which appear well founded, that Dr. Leichhardt and part of his party have been cut off by the natives."—Carried.

The second resolution was moved by C.

P. Hodgson, Esq.; and seconded by John Richardson, Esq.:

"That as it is possible that part of the expedition still survive, natural humanity would prompt, not only the inhabitants of this district, but of the colony generally, to adopt measures to ascertain the truth of these rumours, and to assist in restoring the survivors, if any, to their friends."—Carried.

The third resolution was moved by D. K. Cannan, Esq.; and seconded by William Kent, Esq.:

"That government be applied to, to lend their assistance in forwarding this humane object; and as funds are wanting to equip an expedition, a subscription be now opened for that purpose, and that lists be left at the Sydney Banks, and with private individuals, requesting them to obtain subscriptions in furtherance of the measure."—Carried.

The fourth resolution was moved by Mr. J. Campbell; and seconded by Captain Coley:

"That a district committee be appointed to carry out the objects of this meeting."—Carried.

The fifth resolution was moved by the Rev. Mr. Gregor, and seconded by William Kent, Esq.:

"That a committee of the following persons be appointed, viz.: Lieutenant Cooper, J. P., F. Forbes, Esq., J. P., John Kent, Esq., H. E. Isaacs, Esq., Captain Coley, J. S. Le Breton, Esq., with power to add to their number."—Carried.

Moved by F. Forbes, Esq.; and seconded by G. S. Le Breton, Esq.

"That Captain Coley be appointed Treasurer; and Thomas Adams, Esq., Honorary Secretary."—Carried.

Moved by Captain Coley; and seconded by J. S. Le Breton, Esq.:

"That an advertisement be inserted in the *Sydney Morning Herald,* notifying that subscription lists have been left at the Banks."—Carried.

Moved by Mr. John Campbell; and seconded by the Rev. Mr. Gregor:

"That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to C. P. Hodgson, Esq., for the generous offer he has made to return from Sydney and conduct the party to the place where he left Dr. Leichhardt."—Carried.

Mr. S. Adams having vacated the chair, and the Rev. Mr. Gregor being voted to it, thanks of the meeting were voted to the Chairman for his conduct in the chair.—Carried.

A Subscription List was immediately after the termination of the meeting opened, and nearly £30 subscribed on the spot. There is scarcely a person in the district but will give something towards the object of the meeting, so general is the anxiety felt for the worthy Doctor's fate; his mild and unassuming manner won the good wishes of all here, and it is fondly anticipated that Mr. Hodgson's visit to Sydney will be the means of getting a few good horses, and other necessary equipments for the journey he undertakes immediately.

On the 1st of October, 1844, a party of ten men under the direction of Dr. Leichhardt left Jimbour, the last inhabited station of the Darling Downs district, for the purpose of

exploring a route to connect that part of Australia with the most S. W. point called Port Essington; the party consisted of Dr. Ludwig Leichhardt, leader and naturalist; Mr. Roper, Mr. Calvert, Mr. Gilbert, an orinitholigist connected with Mr. Gould; Master J. Murphy, Philips, Caleb, an American Black; Charlie a Bathurst native; Midge Brown a Newcastle ditto, and myself. After a series of losses, delays and difficulties the scantiness of our supply and the want of animal food necessitated the Doctor to reduce the number of his party; as all of course were still anxious to proceed, there was a difficulty in fixing upon any individually; in the end however it was resolved by mutual consent that I should return accompanied by the American blackfellow Caleb. After an absence of five weeks I reached Jimbour on the 5th of November having performed in two days a distance which with the expedition we had made five weeks of. I left the party all well in lat. 26° 12′ long. 150° They were in excellent spirits and during all their trials had behaved with exemplary patience and perseverance.

They were camped at the head of the Darling on the main range of the colony, and the natives had for some days been hovering around them, venturing often within twenty yards.

Within six weeks from the date of my return a report came in, originating from the blacks, that the whole of the party had been massacred while defiling through a a narrow pass, surrounded on either side by dense scrubs, and from the overhanging tops of which the whole party, horses and bullocks were speared.

This reached the good folks in Sydney, but the same day a letter of mine appeared in the papers contradicting the report; I then imagined it an invention of the whites, who ignorant of the native language concocted a yarn, and filled up the sentences they could not understand with anything that might tend to render their version more probable. Many rumours subsequently reached us on the Downs; told perhaps in a different way but always with the same melancholy termination. Still I was sceptical. In the mean time all the squatters here having

allowed the blacks to "come in" to the stations, Mr. Isaac who is well acquainted with their habits and customs and imperfectly speaks their language, yet well enough to understand and to be understood, was so convinced of the truth of the report, that he wrote to me several times and sent the very blacks to confirm his opinion. The most conclusive evidence however that we could gather was Mr. Isaac's accidentally overhearing a newly arrived native relate to our monarch the whole affair. He told it unconscious of Mr. Isaac's proximity, or his knowledge of their language; but he was a scheming rascal. This together with all that I could make out from their beautiful jabberings, decided me; and after a futile endeavour on the Downs to raise a party sufficiently strong to proceed on their tracts, with the view of ascertaining their fate, or the truth of the tale, I determined to proceed to Sydney, with the hopes of finding the inhabitants thereof liberal enough to supply me with the means. Neither was I deceived, this call on humanity first set in motion by a meeting, was

warmly and quickly responded to, and within three weeks I was equipped with the requisite essentials for a three month's cruise.

I was peculiarly indebted to the exertions of Mr. Lynd, Mr. Marsh, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Mort, Mr. Aldis, Mr. Penny, and Mr. Tugwell, who were not only munificent themselves, but also the principal collectors of the contributions.

On Thursday, therefore, the 3d of July, 1845, I left Sydney, in company with Mr. Calvert, a brother of one of the former party, by the steamer to Moreton Bay. The directors very generously gave me a free passage for the horses and provisions, and after a delightful passage of four days, we landed live and dead stock safe and sound.

With a few delays, and the addition of one volunteer, we arrived at the Station of Messrs. Hughes and Isaac on the Darling Downs, on Tuesday the 15th. This was our established head quarters: here volunteers were enlisted, and here the laws for the regulation of the party were enacted.

It being deemed requisite to allow the animals some repose before we made our

final start; the interim was given up to the necessary preparations.

List of the regulations agreed upon by those who accompany me in the search after Dr. Leichhardt.

1.—That the object of this party is as far as possible to ascertain the fate of Dr. Leichhardt and his party.

2.—That we proceed to the camp, where Mr. Hodgson left the party.

3.—That after arrival at that place, a consultation is to be held, and the general opinion of those present given as to the future steps.

4.—That Mr. Hodgson is leader of this party, and that all his directions are implicitly obeyed.

5.—That as all are volunteers, everybody has a right to express his opinion soberly, steadily, and dispassionately.

8.—That such expressions are to be deferred till arrival at camp: nor by any means is the party to be interrupted when on the journey.

6.—That Mr. Rogers having accepted the office of Commissary-General, has sole

charge of the stores and supplies belonging to the party.

7.— That every one is to assist Mr. Rogers in his office when called on.

9.—That a daily ration be issued of flour and soup, and when a good supply of animal food is at hand, the others are to be proportionately reduced.

10.—That a general watch is to be kept from eight o'clock till six.

11.—That no person is to leave the camp without permission from the leader.

12.—That no man is to fire a shot except when expressly in pursuit of game, or as a signal of distress, without permission.

13.—Any person observing a peculiarity in the lay of the country, or any object which might probably alter the course of the party, is to give a hint of such to the leader.

Tuesday, 29.—The party having all assembled, it was agreed upon to start for Jimbour on the morrow; as the severe frosts were making sad havoc upon the horses.

My companions this trip are Frederick Neville Isaac, Domville Taylor, James

Rogers, William Calvert, Peter Glynne, Bobby, a Patersonian native; Jacky of Gourie, a native to act as interpreter, (if occasion requires). Thus we are eight in number: each with two horses, and well supplied with ammunition: a sufficient party to travel all over Australia, if only good Bushmen.

On Wednesday 30.—We took leave of our kind host, and proceeded to a neighbouring station, the property of Mr. Andrews. The plains here are very extensive; like the circle bounding earth and sky, they allure from far, yet as we follow—fly. Abounding as they do with melon holes, they are at one time almost impassable from water; and at another short interval, their natural inclination to imbibe freely, has left them without the means of allowing the parched lip of the traveller the gratification of a little moisture. A delightful occupation for a delicate man,—to drive 200 head of cattle over one of these plains, shouting, hallooing, and taking in the dust by mouthfuls, while the thermometer is at 130°.

Having had the misfortune to lose four

of our horses, one of the party was left behind. The rest arrived in safety at Jimbour, lat. 27°. long. 150° on the 24th.

Thursday, August 7.—The four horses still being absent, notwithstanding every exertion on the part of several friends, a consultation was held at which it was determined, that we should proceed with what remained. To have prolonged our search after them would only have been fatiguing the animals we had; and the delay hitherto incurred had rendered it impossible for three of the party to proceed for a longer period than eight weeks. Such being the state of affairs, and my unfortunate position, we arranged all things in readiness for a start against the morrow.

By the kindness of Mr. Lyon we were seasonably reinforced with one horse, and our number therefore now was fifteen; or according to their division, eight riding horses and seven packs. Each pack to carry 120 lbs. nett. During our stay here, the natives "came in" with fresh yarns, informing us that a large party of horses and bullocks were encamped far west, and that

" Carbonne white-fellow mak'em plenty gunyas."

Another was, that the whole party had been massacred not by them, but by the visitation of God, who caused a tremendous thunder storm to pass over their camp; which, rushing on with awful impetuosity, tore up the trees and forests, and buried the sleepers under their weight. A third was, that the party had proceeded quietly on their route, till they encountered a large inland sea, abounding with monstrous animals, whose roar equalled that of thunder, and that they had followed it down till it joined the River Balloon, or Barwan. All these yarns still confirmed me in my opinion, that " something" had happened, though I could not help indulging in the hope that a majority, or part of the explorers still survived.

The well-ascertained instances of a superstitious veneration in favour of any deformity, or peculiarity of person, induced me to believe, that Johnnie Murphy might have been spared, and be still alive with some distant tribe.

As the original report of their murder reached the Downs within six weeks from the period of my leaving them, let us calculate how far they could have advanced: say, that the Doctor travelled three weeks at the rate of eight miles per diem, the utmost he could have completed would have been 150 miles; and as the lazy nature of these aboriginals would not allow of any over-exertion in their ambulatory powers on their return, the news might have taken a longer time to come in, than the party was in reaching the point I have allowed them. We therefore concluded, that by going out to that extreme point we should have the power of solving the doubt, *i. e.* of their death or safety.

It would be useless going on further on their trail, as with a ten months start we should never overtake them. However the positive refusal of three of my most valuable companions to remain out for a longer period than eight weeks, unless they had reason to believe any important object was to be gained, in which circumstances can only direct us, rendered it necessary for me

to give up my original intentions of going all the way through it, and to accede to their wishes.

Without them my party would have been too weak; and with them and the means prepared, there will be no doubt of my being able to return with the means of satisfying those, who so kindly and generously assisted me in the desire of ascertaining the truth. This day, therefore, August 8th, we made sail; our horses were all equipped in the space of forty-five minutes, and at a quarter to twelve we left the friendly station of Mr. Dennis. I could not help imagining how agreeably delighted he must have been to have shaken hands with us. Visions of dead sheep and oxen must have haunted the repose of those, who had to feed and support eight hungry mouths for a period of seven days. The disorder necessarily incurred in the domestic arrangements of the Squatter's limited domicile, is also an additional infringement on their hospitality. But we were all treated with the greatest kindness during our stay on the Downs.

After running over an extensive plain for

9½ miles in a N. 76° W. course, we fetched the flat timbered country running down to the Condamine river; here we found splendid feed, and a picturesque spot for an encampment, as a nice chain of ponds running N., and S. and surrounded on either side with small islands of myall scrub, was not to be passed over with contempt. Considering it was our first day's journey, the delays were comparatively nothing: the total time lost in stoppages was forty-five minutes. The total distance made to-day was 11½ miles in a N. 76° W. course.

Saturday, 9.—This morning we started at eight o'clock, having found our nags quietly encamped in the interior of a myall scrub. The country passed over was well adapted for a cattle station, the feed being excellent, and the water permanent. After nine miles we were pulled up by a point of the scrub, I well remembered passing in company with the Doctor's party. His tracks were still very distinct, and it was generally hoped that we might always be able to find such certain guides.

Here we reached a beautiful chain of

ponds, evidently the backwater of the river Condamine. The country underwent a slight alteration; the scrubs became more frequent, and the sheets of water more extensive, entirely covered with wild fowl of all kinds. This chain of ponds we followed down through all its sinuosities till fifteen minutes past one, when meeting with a pleasant spot we camped; general course W. 2° S. 14½ miles. Blacks had evidently been here the same day, as their fires and footmarks were quite fresh.

Sunday, 10. — This day we started at half-past seven, following down the chain of ponds which passed through the most inhospitable and gloomy scene ever witnessed. This aqueduct however, soon effected its junction with the river Condamine, if indeed a few water-holes deserve the name of a river. A slight change also came over the appearance of the country; a few open flats of yarra quite *a là distance,* by the Brigolow scrubs regaled us; but still it was difficult to gain a view of more than 100 yards at a time. The mighty stream, how changed from the rapid tide with which I saw only

ten months since its banks overflowing, was now waterless in comparison; yet, the sombre hues of the Cas. Palud. informed us we were following down that noble river of the north. Having to cross it twice, to avoid penetrating a scrub, we found a bed of the most beautiful coal I ever beheld. The banks were sandy and rotten, yet the coal ran in veins of three feet thick, for upwards of 100 yards in length.

The natives warned us of their proximity by several signal fires which rose up on either side. I was delighted to find the tracks of my late companions so fresh and plain; and the blackfellow's avowal of his capability to follow them, provided they continued as distinct, was very satisfactory.

After travelling till half-past twelve, we made the river again, and encamped. Our general course was W. 32° N. our distance $14\frac{1}{4}$ miles. The game, of which we had formerly such good reasons to lament the scarcity, seemed now very abundant; but being nearly independent at present of such a supply, we reserved our ammunition for a better occasion.

Monday, 11.—A melancholy day! The first greetings of the morning were ushered in by a report that one of the horses was missing. Search was instantly made, and the poor animal found in the last agonies. Every attention experience could suggest, and we had the means of giving, were of no avail, for while three were actively engaged in rubbing him to create warmth, he tottered and fell, never again to rise.

Requescant manes! A valuable horse at an early stage of the journey lost to us! Having been so long delayed in assisting our four-footed comrade, it was twelve before we started down the river, on the north side of which extended the same barren and inhospitable country. A few patches of the elegant myall were the only spots to admire. Having seen smokes yesterday, we were prepared to meet the natives; which we did, and after overhauling their dillies and bags, replaced the contents, having satisfied ourselves that nothing of the party we were in search of remained in that camp. After proceeding down the river, which had taken a decided turn to

S. W., we skirted a large Brigolow scrub in a N. W. direction, till meeting the creek, which was named by the Doctor "Charlie's Creek," we observed several blacks; they ran as fast as they could, concealing themselves in the reeds, or diving into the water. We intended to camp here; so, in our search for a suitable place, we had many opportunities of seeing their cunning ways for eluding us. At the sudden bend of a creek, we met face to face; and through our interpreter, Jacky, I requested them to tarry for a short conference. They did so—but a deep barrier was between us. While the rest of the party were preparing to camp, Mr. Isaac, and myself, asked through Jacky the following questions:—

"Have you seen white-fellow lately?" "Yes." "How long ago?" "Two moons." "What were they doing?" "Building a hut." "Of what?" "Of punbis" or bags. "How many were there?" "Eight." "Was there a young boy with a curious back?" "Ya—piccaninni lik it so and so." (pointing to the peculiarity of formation.) "Were

there any blacks?" "Yes; two." "Which way they go?" "Through a scrub." "Where are the horses, bullocks, etc.?" "They remain at the white man's camp."

The connection between these whites and the party we were in search of, seemed to me positive. Therefore we asked where they were now? They were coming back, but were very miserable; the whites had given him (the speaker) a shirt: we were in the right direction, so it only remained for us to proceed to the spot described, if possible. This creek called Dœabara, was well watered, running N. and S. into the Condamine. About midnight our sable friends who had left us at dark, were heard sneaking about the camp in the long grass; with no friendly intentions we imagined, as the result was my firing a rifle in the direction, which had the desired effect, for no more rustling was heard. If anything had occurred, and these fellows were engaged in it, it would of course have been disowned, and their present conduct led me to believe it more firmly. The watch was doubled,

but they were no more seen. Our general course was N. 57° W. distance 8½ miles. We found two knives in this camp, and a piece of blanket, but I could not recognize them as having belonged to any of my late fellow-travellers.

Tuesday, 12.—Started at eight o'clock over a rotten country, with frequent patches of Brigolow scrub. The Calytris arenosa, Casuarina Tor. Euc. Resinif. composed the general list of the woods passed through. A most uninteresting country, equally unfit for stock or agriculture. The blacks we again took by surprise; one old fellow very intent upon procuring himself an opossum for dinner, allowed us to approach within a few yards of him; when, like the prey he was hunting, he ran up the tree to hide. Our friend Jacky had another conference with him, which only corroborated the other statement; and as it was not our policy to be hostile now, we gave them a few pipes, etc., of the use of which they were ignorant. Iron tomahawks had arrived here, as I saw two in the camp, which held nothing belonging to the party we were in search of

The Jacksonia appeared here, and every requisite to make desolation desolate. We camped at a small waterhole found by the immense assemblage of every variety of birds, who, knowing the country better than we did, told us this was the only one within some miles. Its properties were inkish, and its taste very peculiar. Our distance to-day was 14½ miles. General course N. 26° W.

Wednesday, 13.—We started this morning at a quarter before nine, over four miles of a barren, flat and a thickly timbered country in which our friends the Cas. Tor. and Calytris again predominated. The perfume of the Acacia was now and then wafted on the breeze, and its odour was delightful. Next we passed over three miles of a fine open box flat, when we were pulled up by a dense brigolow scrub. Mr. Rogers accompanied me with the view of ascertaining whether it was penetrable or not, but being soon convinced to the contrary, we returned and rounding the scrub to the west, soon made our proper course again. After travelling till ten minutes past three we made the creek, which I

conjectured to be Acacia creek, partly from the similarity of the country and the appearance of a peculiar gum tree, which the Doctor pronounced, as nearest allied to that section of the Eucalyptus to which the blood-wood belongs. The bark is scaly and reddish, the wood of a deep red colour, and free. Our distance to day was eighteen miles, our general course N. 46° W.

Having a few spare minutes I will describe our usual plan for the day; the last watch, our cook Peter, at half past five summons all hands; immediately it is light, the two blackfellows accompanied by the first watch, and the man who had slept all night in, go after the horses. During their absence the blankets, etc. are all arranged in their proper places for their respective horses, and the morning's meal ready against their arrival; half-a-pound of bread is served out now and any animal food we may have procured is equally distributed. — Start. The general time for travel each day is five hours, the distance per hour four miles. Thus, providing no impediments either in the way of scrubs,

creeks, or capsizes occur, we might perform a distance of twenty miles. The stated time accomplished, the first water-hole is our camp. The horses unpacked, watered, rubbed down and washed, the packs arranged each under its own proprietor, it only remains to make ourselves merry for the night. A second half pound of bread is then served out, and a quart of soup to each man. Hitherto this has been sufficient and the eighth part of a duck gave a relish to each man's meal. Till eight o'clock the watch is kept by Bobby, after that four of us take it alternately till four o'clock, when the morning watch is again called. The last watch but one has the next night in, and this reverses the order.

Thursday, 14. — Our breakfast was a bandicoot, and pigeon divided into eight parts. We started at nine o'clock over the same kind of detestation; such a continued series of bad country, in which nought was to be heard save the rushing of the wind or the melancholy screech of a solitary crow, was sufficient to try our patience. We crossed

three branches which I supposed to run into Dogwood creek, and as the road was very wearisome encamped on the third branch. Some of the reaches abounded with fine fish; our distance to day was twelve miles and a half, our general course N. 45° W. Among the few plants peeping out, I observed one Orchis, one of the Labiatæ, one of the Epacrideæ and three of the Compositæ of which I preserved specimens. The Xylomelum pyroforme was frequent, mingling with the Melaleuca. After all was settled at the camp accompanied by the two blacks I proceeded onwards a short distance, recognizing the creek I met with as the one I left my old friends upon. I saw frequent tracks of bullocks, and those of Caleb and myself returning.

Friday, 15.—Started at a quarter past eight: after proceeding about four miles in a course of N. 30° W. being a short distance a-head of the party, I had the satisfaction of recognizing a large black stump at which, just ten months before, I had shaken hands with Leichhardt and his friends on my departure. I immediately

put spurs to my horse, and the well remembered scene burst fresh upon me. There was the Doctor's gunya, there Mr. Gilbert's and my own, there Mr. Roper's and Mr. Calvert's; apart from the rest stood the skeleton of Philip's house, and still erect appeared the poles on which the meat was dried. There in large letters stood the name of the leader; and amidst all these associations before me, I uttered a sincere prayer that I might be the means of restoring them, or of hearing of their safe arrival at Port Essington on my return. I sat down on the spot where I took my last meal with them, and remembered the appetite with which they devoured twelve pounds of flour made into dumplings. I could see no traces of anything having occurred; all appeared as when I left it, except the presence of my friends. We proceeded about half a mile further up the creek and camped. The scrub was about two hundred yards from us, and natives' tracks very plain.

Saturday, 16.—This day we encamped, and desirous of obtaining a little animal food, we divided our means; and accompanied by

Bobby, Messrs Isaac and Calvert, I entered the scrub and after three hours sneaking and crawling, returned with two excellent paddy melons, a species of kangaroo, the victims of Bobby's gun. The tracks were plain up the creek of bullocks, etc. The water-holes were much reduced, yet they appeared tenanted by fish, as two or three baits were taken off the fisherman's line.

Sunday, 17. — We started this morning rather late, as the horses had all rambled back to our camp of the 14th. Following the creek up, the Doctor's tracks were distinct, running in a northerly direction; to the N. W. course the impenetrable scrub was an obstacle which, with his means, I knew could not be removed, but, as previous to my departure, he had decided upon following the creek to the head, and then, by passing through a brushy place of some four miles descending to the northern waters, I went so close to the scrub, that any tracks might be intercepted. After several entrances and exits into and out of the scrub, and a delay of several hours incurred by the vain endeavours of our blacks to make out the course

of the Doctor's tracks through it, I proposed to my companions to make our way through this scrub, and falling on the north waters there to encamp till we had fresh traces. This being approved of, at it we went: leading in a N. W. course and with the assistance of Bobby, I cut a route for the rest to follow through a distance of four miles. Here an opening presented itself; it was followed up; another scrub entered, run through and yet another. It was sundown. The highest trees were ascended by Messrs. Taylor and Rogers and Bobby and nought but scrub except in one little spot bearing N. 80° W. was visible, unless it were the main range running east and west at a distance of thirty miles and apparently clear. Between us and it however appeared a barrier of ranges, as inhospitably thick as they were useless to encounter. So waterless and supperless we made our camp, hobbled our poor horses for two hours, it being full moon, and then tied them up by their bridles for the night. This day's work is what is generally though not elegantly termed "eye-balling," and its duration

amounted in colonial phraseology, to a "Sundowner;" neither word is to be found I believe in an English dictionary, but both have very expressive meanings. The bottle tree (sterculia)was very frequent; the fusanus acuminatus also. The scrub consisted chiefly of Brigolow, lavender like Acacia, Casurina pal., Chesnut (fagus castanea), now and then, with a little stringy bark at the outside. Our general course to day was N. 50° W. our total distance, twelve miles. Twice our travelling on the Sunday had been attended with deadly consequences, yet as no time was to be lost, we only thought that the better the day, the better the deed would be.

Monday, 18.—After proceeding, about seven o'clock, to the little spot observed last night, accompanied by Mr. Isaac and Bobby, I went further in the same direction to a little eminence, from which nothing but one immense scrub was visible, bound by the Main Range. As it would have taken us two or three days to have passed through it; as the horses and ourselves had been thirty hours without anything; and as by

going so far we were leaving the tracks, without really knowing whether the Doctor could have found a way through or not, I proposed to the party the necessity of returning in order to recruit ourselves, and make sure of the Doctor's route, if possible; this was thought the best plan. We therefore retraced our steps, taking bearings of several points, and after a laborious and fatiguing march, arrived at the first water of Dogwood Creek about three o'clock. Having nought ready, I put down a large four-gallon pot, and made a splendid mess, with two pounds of Mr. Penny's tapioca, which greatly satisfied us.

In the afternoon, with Bobby, I took a stroll in a due north course, hoping to cut off the tracks. After a march of four miles we returned without any satisfaction. Messrs. Calvert and Taylor proceeded in a S. W. direction, and fell in with a few traces of horses feeding. The blacks came to the edge of the scrub, but did not give us any notice. The delicious perfumes arising from the Calytris reminded us of a drawing room, prepared for a grand festivity.

Tuesday, 19.—Eight of our horses having strayed, Mr. Isaac, myself, and Chinchimar, proceeded in a N. 20° E. course, on the same errand as yesterday. We were more successful; after a ride of four miles, we came on a north descent clear of scrub, which on following down we found to run in a N.N.W. direction, and when we left it, had already deserved the name of a large creek. The ground however, was very rotten, being of a reddish sand, and full of little diminutive craters raised nearly pyramidically from the surface. At each stride our horses went in up to the knee, so it was useless to distress them more, we returned, convinced that this must have been the Doctor's outlet, and that by following the creek down we should eventually fall in with his track. Having been since Friday within two miles of the spot where I left the party, and as each day half of this party had been scouring the country in different directions, without seeing a vestige or track, a thought came over me, that on this spot the accident might have occurred. The only way they could have eluded us, was by a retrograde

movement; but to this I knew the Doctor was decidedly opposed, as during my stay with him we had for nearly 30 miles been rounding the scrub to the north. By following this newly discovered creek, we should find the spot at which it must come near the scrub; and at which by skirting the same scrub the Doctor must have come upon the creek. So with the advice of my companions, I determined to follow this creek down on the morrow. Our course through the scrub to the spot we returned from was N. 80° W.

Wednesday, 20.—Started at nine o'clock over three miles and-a-half of thick dogwood brushes, till the sudden yet gradual descent told us we were on different waters. A mere slope, an embryo lagoon, a narrow watercourse, terminating in a rocky gully, in their turns indicated the source of the waters. Scarcely a range or hill was visible, yet limited as the horizon was, it breathed a new existence upon us, who had become habituated to every variety of desolation. On our return from the scrub, we imagined ourselves in paradise, even at the head of

Dogwood Creek. The poor horses were much distressed, it being impossible to proceed at a quicker rate than two miles an hour; yet the change of pasture and water which were excellent, and an early stay made amends.

After all was made snug at the camp, accompanied by Bobby and Peter, I strolled for about five miles down the creek; met with two horse tracks, shot a few ducks, found a vast improvement in the country, and returned home satisfied that those two tracks would lead us to the main road. Course N. 7° W., distance eight miles and-a-half.

Thursday, 21. — Started at eight o'clock, and in about four miles had the inexpressible pleasure of running across the Doctor's outward-bound tracks, coming from the S. W. He had therefore been compelled to act as we anticipated, and by skirting the scrub, had at last made his descent by some other channel. Here it was agreed upon as the most proper thing to follow up the tracks, with the view of ascertaining his general route. This being done, though very slowly, as the ground was sometimes very hard, in

about three miles we came upon an old camp. Three large gum trees bore the brand L, and a few sheets of bark alone remained of what had once been their covering. The soil near the base of each tree was turned over; but we found nothing to guide us. I looked in vain for a few peach trees, which I remembered the Doctor intended to plant at each camp — there were none: the ground had been trodden on by their feet, but had refused to receive their first-fruits of civilization. After a short delay, we took up the tracks again, leading down the creek; on our right hand a plain of two miles long, girt on either side by a beautiful myall scrub presented itself. The soil was excellent, marly. Reinforced by several important tributaries, the creek had now assumed a nobler appearance: box ridges, apple-tree and gum flats were what we had not seen before; and quartz and porphyry, were novelties. After travelling till twenty minutes past two, we halted on a beautiful hillock, with the clear water beneath, and groups of myall, and vitex around us.

This day I met with a new leguminous plant. Our general course to-day was N. 66° W. distance seven miles direct.

Friday, 22.—This morning we started at twenty minutes past eight, and following close to the creek, which we named after Dr. Leichhardt, we came upon a most delightful country, which continued the same during the day's journey. As the nature of the ground excluded any hopes of our being able to retain his tracks, I determined to follow the valley down, of which plan I conjectured the Doctor had most probably availed himself. A myall scrub skirting us on the N.W., and a barrier of hills coming round in the shape of a horse-shoe to the S. W. were good guides. We were fortunate in so doing, for whenever we met with a soft place the tracks were discovered, and we were advancing steadily. The fine box ridges full of quartz, and a porphyritic conglomerate, receded gradually from the creek, and making a graceful circle to the scrub, again presented themselves. Vitex abundant; lotus also, and vicia. On our road we passed through a flat, over which a tremen-

dous hurricane had passed. The quantity of fallen timber rendered it a difficulty for us to pick our way; and as one of the reports asserted the destruction of the party by such a visitation, I was very particular in examining the spot.

Nothing however as to the fate of the party could be gleaned; and as tracks were found a-head, we also proceeded. From a hill we ascended, we had a view of our old friend the scrub; out of it now the scene appeared rather picturesque; the bald hills covered at the base with the silver leafed brigolow; and the valley through which we had passed burst upon the view. This day our invaluable Bobby brought us a splendid emu.—"*O qui complexus et gaudia quanta fuerunt.*" The more unexpected, the more grateful the luxury really was. Our general course to-day was N. 80° W., our distance eleven miles and a half. Camped at two o'clock. Very hot.

Saturday, 23.—Not satisfied with yesterday's work, and bearing in mind the motto "*Festina lentè.*" Mr. Isaac, myself, and the two blackfellows went back to the spot,

where we had seen the fallen forests; thence clearly to ascertain the Doctor's route. Our conclusions were strengthened. They had passed safely through the storm, as nearly all the tracks were covered by the prostrate branches. It must have been a fearful scene; trees of forty feet high and proportionately large, lay stretched and imbedded some feet in the earth: roots standing erect as the pillar they once supported, supplied the want of foliage: torrents had swept down the valley, and left a deposit sometimes eighteen inches deep. Such was the face of the country; the storm could not have raged in breadth more than a quarter of a mile, and we followed in its wake for about two miles, it having come from the N. W.

At eleven o'clock having returned to the camp, we were soon ready; and after proceeding down the creek for about half a mile, heard a shout from Chinchimar, which was intended to give us notice of our being near one of Leichhardt's camps. Following the sound, we soon knew the meaning of an L. marked on a box sapling, and quickly dismounted for examination. Nothing was

found, yet it was cheering; for the impossibility of keeping the tracks rendered it imperative upon us to trust greatly to chance, but more to Nature and common sense. We knew the same obstacles that the doctor met with, we also should have to meet, and that by the same channel we should most probably conquer them. Proceeding then down the creek, over firm, sound, stony box ridges, or large box flats alternately, and crossing three tributaries running from the N.E., we unexpectedly came upon a second encampment of the doctor's, at which we found two L's on either side of a flooded gum tree. Our search again was unsuccessful. It must have been very rainy weather at the time of his being here, from the depth of the tracks, and the creek bore every sign of having been lately flooded.

On our right hand the *Acacia* scrub still ran parallel with us, and the whole surface of the ridges was completely covered with little particles of ochre. Natives' fires were rising all around us, and we were fully prepared to be the first; as, by surprising

them, we might find some good evidence. Five of the party were prepared at a given signal to charge, leaving three behind with the pack horses, &c. They were unseen themselves, though not far distant, the hour not allowing us to go further. We camped on Leichhardt's creek at two o'clock, having come eleven miles in a course N. 54° W.

Iron bark and appletree now mingled with the box. The feed was excellent—the water indifferent.

Sunday, 24.—This morning we started at twenty minutes past seven, following down the creek, which ran at all points from W. to E. In about four miles we escaped from the horseshoe formation of ranges; which, though very low, had directed us through the valley. Here we found the scrub close to either side of the creek.

The country bore a similar appearance to that we passed over yesterday; occasionally, however, the box saplings were so dense on the flats, that we were obliged to round them. There was a little more sand also than yesterday, and the water was

diminishing as the beds of the creek increased in magnitude and depth. The bed of the creeks was sometimes thirty feet below us, yet the flood marks were often six feet above our horses' heads, and at certain seasons there must be a tremendous rush of water. We passed three more tributaries coming in from the N. E., and several large lagoons, forming a backwater to the creek.

The Cas. Pal. now marked the course of the water, which meandered in fearful curves, so as to render it impossible to imagine its future and final turn.

Thousands of white cockatoos screeched at our miraculous appearance, "quale portentum!" and wild fowl of all descriptions seemed to be unconscious of the effect of powder and shot; for, though few and far between, they always patiently and kindly awaited their doom.

The latter part of the day's journey proved to us we were gradually immerging into a more open country, as the Brigolow scrub receded at each step more widely. A few ridges, composed of quartz and mica slate,

presented themselves, and in one of these we followed the doctor's tracts some hun dred yards. Thus we were certified that our present plan was proper, and we intended to follow it down till the tracks went away to the S.W. or N.E.

The Dodonœa, Vitex, Orange-tree were most conspicuous; also the Hakea longifolia growing to the height of thirty feet, and very graceful. We camped at ten minutes to one, having finished fourteen miles in a course N. 35° W.

Monday, 25.—We started this morning at ten minutes before eight, following, as yesterday, the course of the creek. For the first time since leaving the Downs our reveillé was sounded by a chorus of laughing jackasses. The country was assuming a very dismal appearance again: the dense sapling forests, in the absence of scrub, coming down close to the river. In about four miles we came on an old camp of the Doctor's, without any brand, but covered with tracks. This was again satisfactory, as it told us we were on the right scent. The sides of the creek were covered with

muscle shells of enormous dimensions, being often eight inches long, and proportionably broad—the concave part tinged with various hues of green, crimson, and blue. We found them a change, and pretty good eating.

After the first four miles we came upon some delightfully open iron bark ridges, which, however, like a gleam of sunshine during rainy weather, were only seen, to disappear in a moment. From one of these eminences we observed the fall of the waters was about N. 10° E., and a high bald ridge, bearing S. 70° W., was very conspicuous. A dense scrub, for some distance hanging over the creek, compelled us to proceed in the very bed; and as little fires were springing up in all directions, we kept a sharp look out. On emerging from this black hole, we were surprised beyond measure at beholding before us a large sheet of water, extending some miles in length, and about 300 yards in breadth. Spoonbills and ducks in abundance floated on its tranquil surface; and though surrounded by the most melancholy scenery,

still it was a treat. Here the Doctor's tracks were very distinct, and we could not help feeling the difficulties he must have had to fight against. Not like ourselves, who had only one horse to lead, he had to wend his weary and toilsome way by inches and patient perseverance.

This lagoon at once accounted for the scarcity of water above. Through a gently sloping country the waters had all descended, and on arriving at this level met with a capacious bason, into which they all emptied themselves. Here may be dated the commencement of permanent waters, as during the remainder of our day's work we had great difficulty in finding crossing places. Following down this lagoon, which may be styled the second head of Leichhardt's River, we came very unexpectedly, and certainly very unceremoniously upon a group of natives, busily engaged in netting fish. They did not observe us till we were actually over their heads, when a venerable old lady, with immense wrinkles on her face, who was busily employed in fondling some native dog puppies, chanced to catch

a glimpse of "devil devil white fellow." "Ugh yaka," was the cry; and had she been of a tender constitution, or accustomed to European society, no doubt a fainting fit would have been the result; but here, things always going by contraries in the Antipodes, fainting gave way to running, and *sauve qui peut* was all she thought of. Not wishing to hurt the poor things, or alarm their delicate nerves too much, I ordered Jacky to try the soothing plan, and by a to us unintelligible language their tears were soon turned into joy. I then went over by means of a fallen tree with Mr. Isaac and Jacky, who did not appear to relish the service, and examined their bags. All was their own, and so it remained; but our hungry eyes, urged and directed by our more hungry appetites, discovered amongst their finny victims an enormous eel—this we demanded in exchange for tobacco and pipes. They gave it freely, delighted no doubt to have escaped so well. The old lady, having run till she was tired, ventured to take a last long look upon the noble feast she had left behind;

and seeing blackfellow and white amicably conversing, imagined she might with propriety return. She passed us by with a glance of the most unmitigated contempt, and rushing frantically into the water, recovered the nets, and loaded herself with the delicacies she had given up as lost. Provident old lady! No doubt a large family was anxiously awaiting to partake of your motherly bounty, and though you were without exception the ugliest specimen of the sex I ever beheld, I forgive your unkind looks, while I think of the feelings that actuated them! We asked several questions about the party who had preceded us, to which their answers were very proper; telling us they had advanced in such a direction, pointing to the N.W.

Not having any time to lose, and anxious to select an open spot for our camp, we returned, picking up on our way a large dilly holding about forty mullet. This we shamefully pillaged, but left a handkerchief in its place, that they might dry up their tears with it, when convinced of their loss. In about one mile we came on a clearer spot,

if scrub on one side, and a sapling forest on the other may be called so; and having fortified ourselves with the saddles and packs, we set to work at the fish. Amongst the spoil we found a specimen unknown to all the party, therefore I insert a short description:—*Family Clupeidæ*, genus *osterglossum* of Cuvier, distinguished from the other genera of the family, which have the dorsal fin on posterior third of back, and opposite, by the presence of two barbules on the lower jaw. The genus has hitherto been recorded only as inhabiting certain South American rivers; eyes black, with golden fringe. Hearing frequent cooïys in the direction our horses rambled, four of the party went after them, and met the natives again, who had already increased their number. As soon as the horses returned, they were tied up to saplings for the night; and at dusk twenty-four black gentlemen made their appearance desirous of a parley. From them we found the large lake to be called Eurunbal, a name, which to my ears sounded as of Greek extraction; but perhaps, without much reason, "ευρυς and αλς."

They still pointed to the north-west, as the direction taken by Leichhardt, and appeared so confident of our kindness, that I could not help fancying they had been for some time constantly with him, especially as I supposed we should come soon to a camp, at which he would have had to wait for the decrease of the waters, which at the time of his passing must have been very high. We camped to-day at one o'clock, having made 12½ miles in a general course of N. 18° W. Up to this date I had been inclined to believe this a western water, which though now running to the north would eventually sweep round to the south or south-west. The timber, the plants, the rocks, and scrubs, were all similar to those of the Condamine; yet the presence of an eel drove away all my prejudices, and I was convinced of its being either a northern or eastern water. Up to this period also we had put beyond doubt the falsity of two of the reports. We were thoroughly satisfied by ocular proof that the Doctor and his party had escaped the dangers of the scrub; and also that the hurricane had passed over

without at all injuring them, though it might have occurred long after they passed. It only remained for us to put beyond doubt the third mystery, which now appeared the most natural story to be correct, viz. that of his having been detained by heavy floods from crossing this creek, which he would no doubt already have done had it been practicable. His stay for such a cause might also have given time, for the natives here to know his weakness, and upon that knowledge they might have acted on the offensive; therefore it will be highly satisfactory to discover the crossing place.

Tuesday, 26.—Starting at ten minutes to eight, we proceeded due north for four miles, hoping to run upon the tracks which had been lost sight of; not being successful in this, I altered the course to N. 70° W., and in about three miles pulled up the river. Here we found no signs to cheer us on: desolation, scrub, and low saplings, to pass through which your person had to undergo severe flogging, were all we saw. One grand change had taken place: the creek had now become a river, aye, and a large one,

and the Tetratheca gracefully overhanging either side, gave it a picturesque appearance: the sheets of water were very extensive and apparently very deep; the back waters were also very frequently as large as the main stream. Following it down for a mile we were pulled up by a large hill, which in the event of its not being named by the Doctor, I named Mount Neville, after Mr. N. Isaac, who was the first to see it. This we ascended, and from its top were presented with a most unexpected scene. Bearing S. 80° W., lay a very high and conspicuous mountain, lat. 25° 42″ which I named after my friend Mr. R. Lynd, the barrack-master in Sydney; this was no doubt the Main Range running N. and S. and gradually at the extreme point bearing round to N. 35° E. Mount Lynd was the first object deserving the name of mountain: in shape it reminded me of Beachy head; and a sugar-loaf neighbour gave it a very patriarchal appearance: that singular protegé I named Mount Clarke, after the Rev. Mr. Clarke, of Paramatta. Convinced beyond doubt of this river now running

into the sea, and a dense scrub lying to the E. and S. E., I imagined that the Doctor must have already crossed it, to follow on his north-west course. Therefore to spell our horses, and make certain of the tracks, we camped at twenty minutes past eleven, having travelled about eight miles and three-quarters in a direct course of N. 22° W. After our meal of damper and soup, I sent back the two blacks, Jacky and Bobby, to the spot where we last saw the tracks, telling them to make out the direction they went, and to return at sundown, which they did with satisfactory evidence in their pockets. The lagoon on which we surprised the natives, must have been too much swollen to admit of their crossing it; and thus they were driven out of their course to the east, while endeavouring to round it: knowing we must sooner or later come upon its junction with the river, we deter mined to follow the latter down on the morrow; but a heavy rain during the night which came up suddenly from the south-west compelled us to remain inactive for one day—not that it was lost to me, for the

horses required a little rest, having had for seven days successively short but very tiresome journeys to perform. The country passed over during our last day was a succession of lagoons, often waterless, yet oftener very full, surrounded by dense thickets of box saplings.

We had by most excellent good fortune, and great care, scarcely occasion to mend a bag, knowing by experience the value—more haste less speed; and had never yet felt the pangs of "severe" hunger, though we could generally have managed a few pounds of meat after our day's allowance was finished. The difference in the water and air to-day at two o'clock was twelve degrees. Bobby informed me the blacks had been to our camp of Monday night, and after following our tracks to the north, had turned round to the west as we did, following the river. We were all ready, and kept a good watch.

"Eurunbal."—This lagoon of enormous size corresponds so exactly with one familiar to me, that by describing one I describe both. As I before said, the flat country concentrates into one focus all the straggling

little watercourses which have descended from the ranges, and here as at Tummaville on the Condamine, the vast and sudden influxes have caused frequent cavities contiguous one to the other, which by the constant action of the water, and the powerful alterations caused by each successive inundation have rushed at last one into the other, thereby forming the natural bason, which in this instance is worthy of the name of lake. Adjacent and on each side are minor lagoons, springing up and increasing no doubt periodically, to prepare a still larger receptacle for future floods. The dense scrubs too on each side skirted by the graceful branches of the Acacia pendula drooping far over, formed as it were a natural resistance to excessive evaporation; and the tenacious property of the soil made a substantial bed. From this spot the river was supplied with exhaustless prodigality; yet the necessary sum appeared to have had no serious effects on the stock of the reservoir through a period of nine months.

The only difference between Eurunbal and Tummaville is, that the one loses itself

in a swamp, or is absorbed by the thirsty plains; while the other is the commencement of a *mighty* stream.

Thursday, 28.—This morning we started at twenty minutes to eight, in a course of N. 20° E., following down a magnificent reach of water for at least two miles, from the high and steep banks of which we caught now and then a glimpse of some pretty spots. Still our odious companion stuck to us, and during the rest of the day we were completely hemmed in on either side of the river by low though impenetrable Brigolow scrub. The high banks did not continue long, but as if indignant of such confinement, the stream burst forth and extended itself far and wide. Flood marks were visible at a distance of 400 yards from the natural bed, and often as high as fifteen feet: the wild fowl had gained experience, or taking warning from the sudden decrease of their number either became too wild, or migrated altogether. Having already reduced the daily amount of flour to seven pounds, it was impossible to make more of it, for we found the quantity barely sufficient

to give us the requisite support and strength. The soup though excellent and very refreshing, satisfied us only for the moment, and for the first time we all began to feel rather weak: each however kept the secret to himself, and not a word of useless repining was heard in the camp. Several large lagoons formed the usual back-water; on one of these the pelican was seen; and at the junction of another with the main stream a few bullock tracks, and other equally convincing signs told us we were again on the right scent.

It was utterly impossible to find out their direction, so imagining the scrub on the opposite side must have stopped them, even if they had crossed the river, I continued steadfast in my determination of following the river still further, more especially as Bobby said he thought the tracks went in that direction. After travelling through all the sinuosities of scrub and river till one o'clock, we observed a small eminence, which, accompanied by Messrs. Isaac and Rogers, I ascended. The view was very limited, and Mount Lynd bore S. 60° W. and a line of hills extended from Mount Neville to S. 80°

E. The hills of red sandstone were covered with Calytris.

We halted at two o'clock, having come through as barren a waste as man ever beheld: certainly this must have been the last created spot! for though I have travelled over every inch of country between Sydney, lat. 33° 51′ and Wide Bay lat. 26° 30. I never yet beheld such an extensive mass of barren waste. Our journey's distance to day was twelve miles and three quarters, true distance eight miles, our true course N. 44° S.

Friday, 29. — We started this morning at half-past seven over an undulating series of sandstone ridges, among which particles of quartz and porphyry were lavishly scattered; thence over some open ridges of box running into the river: some open iron bark ridges forming a circumference to large box flats seemed at last to give us hopes of having a clear country. The scrub appearing still on the opposite bank as it had done all the way since our leaving the camp of the 26th, induced me to believe that this must have been the Doctor's route; but after having travelled a distance

of nineteen miles and two thirds without falling in with a single sign, it was time to waver and reflect again, as we had never yet gone so far without seeing many marks of his passage.

Having travelled till twenty minutes to twelve, a distance seven and a half miles in a true direction of N. 53° E. and four miles nearly E. I imagined we must have given sufficient time for the entry of the Lagoon, which the natives informed us the Doctor had to go round; and I began to think the tracks observed yesterday coming from the S. E. must have been the line by which he had emerged from the scrub, and that he had succeeded in crossing the river, as his tracts were seen last there, and there only. The bed of the river being also very broad would have allowed him an earlier crossing place than in most places. After dinner on soup maigre, I went out for about four miles S. E. and came upon the river again, running in a valley between two spurs which terminated at a supposed distance of twenty-five miles, the one at S. E. the other at S. 55° E. This would have

taken the Doctor out of his way entirely, and having from a hill we ascended, observed open country and three large tiers of mountains from N.E. to N.W., I thought it would be prudent to attempt a passage in that direction. A hill, which I named Mount Domville after my companion Mr. Domville Taylor was a conspicuous landmark, forming the S. E, extremity of a range which directed the fall of this water. Its bearing was S. 85° E. and appeared as a "one tree" hill. The fall of waters from it appeared to be about S. 70° E.: not far from it bearing N. 82° E. was a little conical hill, which I named mount Rogers. Our short allowance of animal food was severely felt, and at the desire of all the usual ration originally agreed upon was again served out. The Australian Foxglove was flowering most luxuriantly, and the silver toned Hakea was so frequent, as to afford an harmonious concert, when its pendulous and metallic leaves were stirred by the gentle quiverings of the breeze.

We camped again on Leichhardt river, the enormous backwater of which far ex-

ceeded in size the parent stream; several black's fires were seen a-head and I could not help imagining that had they speared the Doctor, bullocks, etc., in passing through these scrubby ranges, they might be proceeding to the same spot there to welcome us with a similar salute; as, knowing from ourselves that we were following his course, they might with good reason conclude we should pass through the same defile.

A contradiction offered itself again from a consideration of their behaviour to us. When we were camped on the 25th, a party of twenty-four men accompanied by one piccaninny came up boldly to our camp unarmed, quiet, and astonished. They answered our questions to the best of their ability in a straight forward manner: they camped close to us, and offered every thing they could and more than we wanted. Had they done any thing for which they feared a retaliation they would at our presence have assumed a bouncing air and impudent line of conduct, or would have not shewn themselves at all without meaning hostility.

Therefore I abandoned that idea very soon. Our observation was lat. 25° 26″.

Saturday, 30. — We started this morning at nine o'clock; the cause of our delay was two of our horses having wandered from the rest. The first four miles journey was over a few open sandy ridges, covered with box and islands of dwarfish brigolow, a high scrubby range running parallel with us on our left: we mounted a slight rise, and beheld mount Domville in all his glory bearing south point S. 60° E., north point S. 75° E. and running from N.N.W. to S.S.E.

After two miles more through the same country, we crossed over a range between two lofty heads; both of which gradually sloping downwards form a second edition of Cunningham's Gap; imagining this to be either the main range, or a leading spur from it, accompanied by Messrs. Isaac, Taylor, Calvert, and Rogers, I ascended the bluff point after a wearisome struggle with precipices and rocks, etc. A grand view rewarded us; a noble panorama was extended before us. Such a scene as described in the "Traveller,"

I was already prepared to meet, but never seated "high amid the storm's career," had I gazed on such a glorious spectacle. For at least a distance of thirty miles lay a splendid undulating yet level country, intersected by numerous valleys running in from all sides; and a curious conical hill, which I named Mount Calvert, bore N. 5° E., in the centre of an amphitheatre of ranges. The distant peaks, heads, capes, and spurs, all radiating to their centre at N. 55° W. inclined me to believe that the waters came from the north-west, and swept round under a distant range, which seemed to break off at N. 45° E. The whole was bound in by range upon range, till the space between earth and heaven seemed to terminate: three peaks were just visible distant fifty miles at least, bearing N. 62° W.

Farewell River Leichhardt! farewell disgusting scrub! I breathe once more the pure air, and can gaze on the sight beneath me, fancying, that wide as the waste has been which destined by fate we have travelled over, there are visions of rare quality even in Australia. The free mountain air, the

clear prospect, the exciting thought that we were perhaps the first discoverers of this paradise, which only wanted the presence of a large river to render celestial, were glorious changes, and had their due effect on our spirits, and on the speed of our horses accordingly. We crossed the range which is yet to be determined; and descending a valley followed it down in a course of N. 30° W. for five miles, when meeting with a beautifully green and well watered slope, we halted at two o'clock, having travelled over fine open though somewhat sandy ridges, clothed with iron bark, apple-tree and box: these waters ran to the north-east. The top of the range was composed of sandstone, and the Melaleuca, which I had not ever before observed at such an altitude, was growing to an enormous size. The grass was in large tufts of a circumference of 18 to 24 inches, and at least 3 feet high, though between each separate tuft was a great space. The distance made to day was 14 miles, the direct line 11 miles, in a direct course of N. 44° W. During the night we were plagued with another untimely visit, which

came down in torrents; and the following day being also rainy, we were obliged to remain inactive. Sunday had always been with us an unlucky day—on Sunday we lost a horse — on Sunday we were in a scrub, waterless and supperless — on Sunday we got wet through; and this Sunday we were again fated to be miserable.

Monday, September 1. — Eleven months this day, since my poor fellow travellers left the last station on the Downs! How gloriously we have succeeded in following them thus far; but, the heavy rains of yesterday and Saturday night must, I fear, obliterate all remaining traces. Without proceeding further, I am convinced nothing occurred to the party this side of their journey: our having contradicted the truth of two of the reports is a good reason for conjecturing the falsity of the third. We started this morning at ten minutes to nine; and after travelling nearly five miles, in a N. 30° W. course, over sloping sandy ridges timbered with box, calytris, and a few dwarfish grass-tress, which alone will indicate the soft nature of the soil, we observed on our left

a blue tinge, which at first sight appeared to be the sky; after a closer and longer inspection however, the testimony of the blacks corroborated the surmise of its being water. We bore down N. 85° W., and in about one mile came upon a large lagoon in circumference about two miles, which was completely covered with flocks of spoonbill, ibis, pelican, and other water-fowl. The sportsmen after two hours wading and sneaking returned empty handed, which to our very empty stomachs, was an unsatisfactory waste of valuable time. This little lake was surrounded with gently sloping ridges, which no doubt conjointly sent down through their separate water-courses all we now beheld. We were deceived in our hopes of meeting with the large lakes heard so much of from our blacks, and which they describe with a superstitious terror, as abounding with large animals, who walk about, now on land, now on water, tearing up trees, or spouting up lakes at pleasure. In a few months this apparently large sheet would be a dry spot, and as such needs no further description. Proceeding therefore on

our N. 30° W. course, we passed over a series of rotten undulating ridges, falling off to SS. W., a direction which puzzled us, as the creek we camped on last night went off to the north-east. After a tiresome and weary march of nine miles, we were pulled up by a creek running to the south-west, the banks of which were steep and lofty, and marked by a line of Cas. Pal. Following it down for a short time without finding water we turned off to our original course, and meeting with a high range corresponding exactly with Mount Mort in timber, grass, and rock, I imagined them to be the same. They must have been, for following down a water-course that led us at last to another creek, whose bed was at least 200 yards broad, we found it running to the south-west. Here the mystery was explained. Mount Mort was the spot at which the waters were divided into three channels. The spur leading from it to the north-east, which we crossed, directed the waters flowing to the east: the waters between that and Mount Mort range itself, were northern ones: and those we were now on, will no

doubt be proved to be the new sources of the Darling. Having long searched in vain for water, the screech of a cockatoo directed us perhaps to the only one within miles; and after a weary day's work we camped at sundown on Sandy Creek, having made 24 miles, or a true distance of 18 miles in a true course of N. 45° W.

Thus our promised land was turning out a barren wilderness. A rotten, waterless, gameless, smokeless, yet timbered desert, was before us. "The flowers of the forest were all wede awae," and I had scarcely been able to make a single addition to my collection. A solitary little Orchis, plucked from the rugged shade of an overhanging rock, was the only return for the toil of ascending many a lofty range. The sloping ridges, which from their table-topped appearance and general line, I had determined to be whinstone, turned out barren sand. Woe to thee, Traveller! who presumest to tempt the dangers of making new discoveries in Australia; if, as many do, thou thinkest thy gun will procure thee a moderate subsis-

tance! Deluded mortal, take warning by us, eight poor comparatively fortunate wretches, who thought at least we could supply ourselves with "animal" food sufficient to satiate our appetites, with the assistance of a little flour. What must have been the poor Doctor's state? His case was often before me; his trials, pains, and privations must have been severe indeed. Brave little band, may you be spared to reap the reward of your sufferings! Ours to yours, must be like molehills to mountains.

Tuesday, 2. — Started this morning at half-past eight, over a succession of rotten ridges, directing us to a deep creek running from the north-west, on the opposite of which was a range of peaked mountains, running parallel to it. The day's journey was very tiresome and laborious, the horses at each step as usual, sinking into the ground over their fetlocks. A few permanent waterholes came in "like angel's visits," but monstrous, "few and very far between." Apple-tree flats, with grass up to our horses' shoulders, gave us good pasture for our nags, and a good wetting up to our thighs, when we went

to collect them in the morning. We travelled a distance of $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles in a general course of N. 64° W.

Wednesday, 3. — Started this morning early, in a course of N. 60° W. over rotten but open ridges, timbered with the broad-leafed iron bark and fruit oak, still following up the creek, which was gradually getting confined closer and closer by the mountains. After proceeding six miles in a N. 60° W. course, and crossing over three spurs of sandstone ranges, very steep and rocky, running to the south-west, and being in advance with my blackfellow Bobby, nearly a quarter of a mile, I found the rest of the party had halted.

Not knowing the reason, I cooeed, and received an answer. I then imagined something had happened to the packs, and waited patiently. I was soon undeceived; on walking back to those behind, I found them quietly smoking their pipes, and looking so fierce, that it appeared almost dangerous to approach them. One of the party, on my inquiring the reason of the delay, said, he was determined to proceed no further in

that line, it being too steep and mountainous, and not a right course. I told him and all, that N. 60° W. was my line, and I intended to pursue it till I met with some more grievous impediment, and that any might return who did not wish to proceed with me.

The attack came very unseasonably from a man, who was then using two horses I had lent him, and to whom their sacrifice, therefore; could not be any loss. Had it come directly from the two who alone had their own horses, I might have listened more patiently; as it was I found there was an equal division; so I determined on giving the four who wished to return three weeks supply of everything; a suitable supply of rations &c., was accordingly weighed out and delivered over.

The young man to whom I lent the horses wanted to stick to his; but that not suiting my ideas of "*suum cuique*," I insisted on a resignation, which was at last acceded to —not that I wished to see them pushed for the means of conveyance; but I knew there was a sufficient number independent of my

own. The scene ended, therefore, unpleasantly to all; but I congratulated myself that it was only two days before it had been generally agreed that all of us should make a retrograde movement, as our four weeks term was expired, and there was no probability of doing more than we had done, without going the whole way which we were not in a situation to do. I had some time before mentioned to the rest my plans, namely, to proceed N. 60° W. in as direct a line as possible till we ought to cross the Doctor's line, supposing he had gone his N.W. course, from the spot on which we last saw signs. This we were within ten miles of, and, therefore, I would not willingly give up my plan; but it is over, and I have no doubt some of them regret their conduct, as much as I did the necessity of shewing determination.

After our parting, which took place about twelve o'clock, I proceeded S. 40° W. till I pulled up the creek again in about four miles, and there camped to talk over future proceedings, past actions, and repack our loads. We felt rather lonely, but it was fine wea-

ther, and the feed excellent. Having hitherto kept watch, we could not but do so now; therefore we divided the night from eight to five, or two hours and a quarter each. We had also to tether two horses for the collection of the others in the morning. We then divided the rations into three packs, though there were still eight horses; but I found it impossible to lead a horse, and attend to my compass. So we left a saddle and all our *useless* stores under a rock, to call for them when we returned. The spare horse fortunately preferred company, and would not be left behind; for he fed a little, and then galloped to overtake us according to his fancy, neighing vociferously. We shot three pigeons which gave us an excellent relish for the damper.

Thursday, 4. — Proceeding early this morning in a course of S. 80° W. over eight miles of sandy and rocky spurs, timbered with dogwood, bloodwood, melaleuca and stringy bark saplings, almost impassable and impenetrable, I mounted a hill to obtain a view if possible, of what lay before us. From S. 5° W. to N. 30° E. a distant range appeared of

three tiers, the intermediate space being a series of huge spurs, and broken country, too rugged to attempt. As by altering my course to S. 80° W., I had already passed the line where the Doctor's tracks ought to have gone; and as it would have been impossible for him to have penetrated this inhospitable country, I consulted with Mr. Calvert, and we agreed upon returning to the spot where we last saw the trail.

We camped therefore early, it having been a laborious day's work at half past two. I had the misfortune to break the glass of the only compass now remaining, but necessity, that mother of invention, afforded me a substitute in the shape of a thin silk nightcap, into which I pierced a few holes, and was able with tolerable accuracy and ease to make up for the loss. This day I found some new plants viz. a polygola and acacia.

Friday, 5 — Returned S. E. in about twenty eight miles to camp of August 30th, where we met with the tracks of the others, who had also camped there: we observed several fires all round us — but the

native tenants were shy and kept themselves at a distance.

I began to imagine the Doctor must have followed down the River Leichhardt, and that rain had obliterated the traces; and was anxious to find out if he had crossed the river or not. This being a fine open spot, we determined to spell our horses for a day, knowing that our force was now very small, and that the country was very scrubby and swarming with blacks.

We indulged in tapioca again, having found that the soup was neither agreeable nor wholesome; in fact to ease our horses it was determined to leave the larger part of it.

There being little doubt that Leichhardt river was a tributary to the Boyne, it gave some colour to a report, that the Doctor had been obliged to turn back, as by following the river's course S. E. he was not much out of his homeward bound direction. It would be, therefore, highly satisfactory to prove that he had crossed the river and proceeded, or that he had been forced to make such a circuitous route.

We procured six pigeons at sundown, being encamped at the only waterhole perhaps within miles, and therefore a resort for the birds at tea-time. The damper, alone, affected us greatly with an unpleasant heartburn, no agreeable companion.

Sunday, 7. — Started this morning at half-past seven, and after proceeding about twelve miles in a S. E. course, we came again upon Leichhardt river. The country appeared much greener, many plants were in flower, and many more budding. After spelling two hours, we followed the creek up to our camp of the 28th ult., where we heard yells and howlings resembling the united cries of a hundred native dogs. The whole country was in a blaze, and the unusual excitement originated no doubt from the novelty of our invading tracks.

We came upon the whole camp much to their surprise, and regardless of wives, children, weapons or ought, the men immediately fled in the greatest consternation.

The ladies however more provident of their offspring, "planted" in the rushes or creeks, till we had passed. We did not

endeavour to hold a parley, but kept moving gently on, as if their appearance did not concern us. But to our limited party such a force was no great pleasure.

On crossing the creek Bobby pointed out to us, within five yards distance, three gins with their piccaninnies, so well concealed, that our eyes were long in discovering them. They were under the roots of a Melaleuca, overhanging the water. They crouched like a hare in its form, and not all our cries of "Yaga Parn," (not angry,) would induce them to leave their hiding place. Bobby observed "you see black gin; close up turn 'em white, merry frighten."

We dropped a few pieces of linen in the path and left them to their meditations, with the resolution of reaching an open spot for the night's camp, as by the decrease of our party, which no doubt they observed, they might gain courage and attempt we knew not what.

We observed the tracks of the other four turning off to the east. During the evening and night a most extraordinary number of meteors fell.

Monday, 8.—Started at seven o'clock and reached the place where we last saw the tracts; we camped three hours for Bobby to search and find out the crossing place. During this time the blacks, who had followed us made their appearance, and we held a parley, which ended in their shewing us the crossing place, and guiding us three miles on the Doctor's tracks. I presented the head man with a tomahawk, and would have kept them as guides for a longer period had not their conducting us to "their own fires" in the scrub awakened suspicions, and as each of us had a horse to lead, on which depended his subsistence, we could not have parted with them to charge, had occasion required. We therefore deemed it prudent to decamp, while our sable friends were absent, for the purpose of painting themselves and bringing us a fire-stick. At this spot the Doctor's tracks were very plain, and from the frequency of well-beaten paths and barked trees, we concluded he must have remained here to spell, or to kill a bullock.

After crossing the main branch we had by

great good fortune met with a second one coming from the N. W. which effected a junction only a mile from the crossing place. Up this therefore we ran, and left the main creek.

The line of march was in single file, myself, with compass in hand, taking the lead, a blackfellow followed as aid-de-camp and the rest as they themselves arranged it.

Each was armed with carbine and sword, fifty rounds of ball cartridges at hand, and plenty more not far off, with a pair of strong blankets, one spare shirt, one spare pair of socks and boots, a southwester and flannel jacket. The hobbles and tether-ropes were as necklaces and music, and the steady silent walk, uninterrupted only at intervals to arrange some articles that had become loose, or to light a pipe, was like a mournful procession attending a corpse to the grave.

It was a glorious sight to see such specimens of Chivalry. All had the same dress on, and all had a packhorse to lead, except myself as I could not attend to the course correctly if disturbed by the obstinacy, jerking, or tricks of my

follower. We often thought of the luxuries which we knew we should not meet with again till we returned, and sighed for the beef and damper, which the pliability of our stomachs would have enabled us to have done justice to. It is a bushman's maxim never to go out with an empty stomach, for he can never know how far his ride may extend, and can never be sure of his return till he actually finds himself at home.

The rations daily to be served out and with which we were provided for eight weeks were, one pound of flour each daily, two ounces portable soup daily, a mere beverage; and one pound and a half sugar each, weekly; quarter of a pound of tea each, weekly; quarter of a pound of tobacco each, weekly; eight charges of shot daily, to procure food if possible for the party, and one tomahawk each to cut out opossums, grubs, honey, guanas, or make a house.

This was a very fair allowance, but to men obliged to work hard, it was barely enough, for the tending of damper alone to create heartburn made us at first weary of eating it, though afterwards it would all have disap-

peared if it had been twice as much, chancing the result. Our flour was sewn up in second bags, and fastened on either side of the saddle in equal balance by green hide thongs, a long leather circingle being thrown over the whole to keep it steady and in one place. Our smaller parcels, tea, tobacco, salt and numerous etceteras, were equally divided into large canvass saddle-bags, labelled with the contents of each, so that as only one of the party was allowed to open them, he had but to refer to his list to know where any thing required was. A tarpaulin three feet square was placed over each load, and when the hour for camping arrived every man placed his own charge immediately where he intended to sleep, by which means he had a shelter from the wind and a first rate fortification besides. The camps were generally four in number; I selected a good log for the cook; as the cook is a personage much respected on such an expedition, the others arranged themselves two and two in his immediate vicinity: the two blackfellows gave us their company when it

suited their convenience, or rather, when one fire was low, they would crawl to the one which would afford them the most warmth.

They had an impudent practice of lying between our feet and the fire, and not all the kicking in the world could stir them from their position.

The blacks pointed to the north-west as the direction the Doctor's party had taken. The presence of gins and picanninies told us they were friendly inclined; their desire to assist us, when by signs of old manure we were able to acquaint them with our wants; and their desire to bring us a firestick, and to camp among them were all signs and tokens that the previous party had received no ill treatment from them.

It may be asked, Why did I retreat? I was in midst of a scrubby country surrounded with blacks, and by the force of circumstances reduced to a walk. We were only four in number, and Mr. Calvert's gun was minus one nipple; my own was worn to a shell; therefore we were not in a first rate position to act either offensively or defensively. Moreover we thought that by fol-

lowing down the river, we should be certain to discover tracks, if the Dr. had been obliged to make for the Boyne, and we had shewn the falsity of the third report, " that the party had been detained by the carbonne water," inasmuch as we had satisfactorily and beyond all doubt, proved that this was their crossing place.

We, therefore, retreated upwards of twenty miles down the river, passing through a quantity of smoke, and then camped. By this movement we should also withdraw the attention of the natives from the spot we wished to revisit, for the chances of their following us were greatly in our favour. We found that our former companions had taken this route; for what end, I was at the time uncertain.

Tuesday, 9.—We started this morning in a course of S. 45° E., over some fine open ridges and flats, timbered with box, and iron bark; a scrubby range distant five miles runing from the south-west to a point at south-east, distant fifteen miles. This pulled us up, but as I saw no opening anywhere, I thought by following a creek to the fountain

head, I might meet with a passage. We were deceived; this horse-shoe range was impassable, and the scrub impenetrable.

Therefore, on Wednesday, 10.—We resolved to go back once more to the tracks, before prosecuting our journey further in this direction. We started at eight o'clock with the intention of leaving two horses at some convenient spot, and to carry with us such provisions as could be conveyed on the other two packs. This plan left two of the party free, and would enable us to go much quicker; but we had not advanced far before the return tracks of my former compa nions were discovered by Bobby: this, therefore, altered our plans, for we knew something serious must have prevented them from carrying out their projected route. The tracks appearing those of yesterday, there was little chance of our overtaking them; yet I determined on pushing on as far as possible, so as to find a clear spot to leave our horses in, if we were obliged.

The whole country was one mass of smoke, so dense that it caused us to cough frequently; and the blacks were in great numbers.

We travelled till sundown, and reaching the camp of 28th ultimo, a distance of nearly forty miles, recognised the horses of the other party at feed. Willing to know their feelings, and desirous of obtaining their assistance for a day or so, I galloped in advance of my companions, and meeting only with frowns, I galloped back, not exchanging a word. We camped about 400 yards apart, and in the evening there was an exchange of compliments between the rest. I received a very polite letter, requesting my return to the Downs with Bobby, that they might finish what I was on the eve of accomplishing. To this, as naturally supposed, I sent no answer.

On the morrow, Thursday, 11. — They proceeded homewards, and immediately after their departure, a whole body of niggers came down, bringing with them gins and piccannies, opossums and other food. We kept them at a distance of fifty yards, having determined to spell before making our forced marches. They remained with us the whole day, and in the evening came down painted and variegated after

different fashions and colours. I gave them some flour, and made signs to them that we intended to leave a large portion of our stores under a certain tree till our return.

Having weighed out rations for fourteen days and arranged our packs differently we prepared to sleep, but the noise of singing kept us on the "*qui vive*;" and we had four horses saddled in their turn during the whole night. It was an unpleasant time, but we had not the remotest foundation for suspecting their intentions were hostile; in fact their whole line of conduct was only that of people curious to see all that was to be seen, without giving offence. Still it behoved us to be cautious; our large watch fires sprang up as the moon went down, and made everything within 150 yards all round appear as plain as in daylight.

We started this morning, Friday, 12, at daylight, before our sable friends had awakened from their slumbers, and pushed on till twelve o'clock, following up the north-west branch, and passing two more camps branded L. The country was still penned in by scrub, which came so close to the creek,

that we had to go in the very bed three times to avoid passing through it. The banks of the creek were rich, covered with the lotus, kennedya, and pultenæa. The cabbage tree was growing luxuriantly to the height of forty feet, and bearing a strong resemblance to the cocoa-nut in form. At a splendid lagoon, in circumference about two miles, and abounding with waterfowl, we observed again the branded trees, and here the country was quite open and timbered with box, iron bark, and apple-tree. The ridges were firm and covered with quartz, agates, and a large pebbly sandstone; blacks' fires burning in every direction. At twelve we camped to breakfast, and then proceeded to the foot of the Main Range, to a hill which we had before observed, as being a part of the same range with Mount Lynd, where we found the scrub an impediment again; but being determined to gain the top for the purpose of having an extended view, we tied our packhorses to some saplings, and commenced an ascent, each leading his own horse.

In about an hour we reached the top

which consisted of large masses of sandstone; the view was grand indeed, and rewarded us for the trouble of penetrating a mile of scrubby precipices. About forty miles distant, extended a noble range of mountains, and between them and us an undulating country; to our left an enormous scrub ran as far as the eye could reach; but to the north-west, or straight a-head, the country was clear and open, though I fear of a sandy description. This mountain, a part of the main range, we named Mount Aldis, in lat. 25° 15″—long. 149° 17″, and this was the spot where we made up our minds that nothing more could be done, unless "we" proceeded the entire way. We had travelled to-day upwards of thirty miles, in a course of N. 25° W., and it was sundown before we came to water.

Thus we had the satisfaction of tracing the Doctor through the scrub, the scene of the thunder-storm, the carbonne water, and proved he had safely escaped from the region of scrub to enter an open country. I found a fork, which I recognised as having been one of the Doctor's, and I believe that was

the only article or vestige observed. This evening we missed Bobby for some time, and were much alarmed at hearing an awful cry from the creek. We rushed for our arms and cartouche boxes, and hastening to the creek, found poor Bobby busily engaged in hauling to land a monstrous eel, at sight of which his spirits rose, and in his anxiety to make us participators of his joy, he gave way to those loud demonstrations which drew our attention so quickly. After a sincere and hearty laugh, we went to work, and soon had the slimy animal on the coals. It was a godsend, weighing 8½ lbs., and all meat. I observed here many of the *osterglossum*, of a very large size; but they would not jump at our baits, though we used the most persuasive means in our power.

Saturday, 13.—We now commenced our homeward bound route; and returned to the camp of the 10th, when to our utter astonishment, we found everything as we had left it, an evident proof that the blacks were friendly. Not a single article had been touched, even though we had intentionally

scattered some preserved soup, tobacco, and twine, for them to pick up. Before leaving, Peter Glynne had placed all our extra flour, etc., at the root of a tree with a stick pointing in the direction we intended to take. They knew by that, therefore, that we should probably return the same way.

The native dogs had not been so attentive to this law, for we found that a bladder full of fat had been scented and accordingly destroyed by these animals. Intending now to reach home as soon as possible, we made an advance of a few miles. Peter Glynne again pointed a stick in the ground, and affixed to it a tuft of grass placed in the direction we were then about to take. Mr. Calvert and Bobby observed one blackfellow, no doubt a spy to watch our movements while in his territory.

Our behaviour must have astonished their weak minds advancing and returning, advancing and returning. It must have puzzled them what to think of our intentions. The gins were covered with kangaroo cloaks branded with fantastical figures and signs, all of which were representations

or memorials of some ancient custom. With the sharpened bone of a kangaroo they slightly scratch the under side of the skins, which process, while it preserves an old habit, renders the cloak pliable and soft.

One of our horses known to us by the elegant name of "skin and grief" after having followed us the three previous days, took it into his head to stay behind, and though Peter volunteered to go back after him I determined to "chance it." We saw no more of him. Thus out of ten horses we only had six remaining.

As it is needless to re-describe what I have already attempted a slight sketch of, suffice it to say that we pushed on as fast as possible, observing a vast change for the better in the appearance of the country, encountering two days rain, and passing the remains of our poor horse, which died on Monday the 11th ult. We arrived at Jimbour on on the 21st of September, all well, but very glad to renew our attacks on Mr. Dennis's beef and butter, as during the last fourteen days, with the exception of an eel, we had scarcely touched a piece of animal

food. Without losing more time than absolutely necessary and remaining a few days with my brother to recruit, I started for Sydney, which I reached on the 8th of October, having travelled by sea and land, since the day of my departure, upwards of one thousand eight hundred miles.

AUGUST, 1845.	Sunrise.	7½	11	2	Sunset.	7½	Wind.
Aug. 8	..	..	..	..	66	66	W.
9	37	..	76	75	64	48	W.
10	28	45	71	..	64	46	S.
11	26	53	74	..	59	..	Light
12	31	37	73	..	68	56	W.
13	45	68	90	..	72	61	W.
14	59	65	80	..	79	..	SW.
15	65	65	82	..	80	..	E.
16	56	68	..	..	61	45	SW.
17	31	..	..	..	61	..	Calm
18	41	..	72	..	63	..	NE.
19	39	..	77	..	71	..	NW.
20	68	..	78	..	69	..	W.
21	39	..	74	..	67	51	S.
22	31	..	83	..	66	62	S.
23	39	..	85	..	71	56	SW.

* Separation. † 72 in the Water.

AUGUST, 1845.	Sunrise.	7½	11	2	Sunset.	7½	Wind.	Remarks.
Aug. 24	40	..	82	..	73	66		
25	65	..	72	..	..	67		
26	49	..	83†	84	70	73	NE.	
27	54	..	77	..	77	72	N.	Showers.
28	51	..	71	..	67	56	SE.	
29	33	..	78	..	67	57		
30	42	..	84	..	76	66	N.	Rain and Thunder.
31	58	..	66	..	65	..	NW.	
Sept. 1	45	..	77	..	66	61	S.	
2	41	..	78	75	69	59	S.	
3*	47	..	82	86	71	64	..	Clouds.
4	48	..	82	80	72	68	NW.	
5	46	..	86	84	76	68	SW.	Clear.
6	44	..	65	..	68	62	SW.	
7	48	..	74	82	74	72	E.	Number of Meteors.
8	44		cloudy	74	..	64	SE.	
9	48	..	74	82	72	68	NE.	Cloudy.
10	44	..	82	87	82	58		
11	48	..	86	..	80	68	NW.	Cloudy.

SEPTEMBER, 1845.	Sunrise.	7½	11	2	Sunset.	7½	Wind.	Remarks.
Sept. 12	50	..	82	80	78	72		
The day we returned 13	67	..	84	83	76	70	SW.	Showers.
14	50	..	86	86	76	72	E. by N.	Cloudy.
15	69	..	86	88	76	74	NNE.	Do.
16	56	..	70	66	62	56	SW.	
17	48	..	70	74	60	..	E. by S.	
18	41	..	76	78	76	56	SE.	
19	44	..	74	86	76	62	..	Cloudy; Light air.
20	48	..	74	78	72	64	..	Hot wind.
21	42	..	78	..	..	63	..	Arrived at Jimbour.
						o		

Monday 11th August, coldest at sunrise,
9th and 10th .. coldest at ½ p. 7,
6th September, coldest at 11,
16th .. coldest at 2,
17th .. coldest at sunset,
15th .. warmest at sunrise,
13th August, warmest at 11,
15th September, warmest at 2,
10th .. warmest at sundown,

} Lat. 25″. Long. 152°.

NOTES.

a. " Squatters." A word not to be met with in Johnson's Dictionary; of Canadian extraction, literally to sit on the haunches: in Australia a term applied to the sheep farmers generally; from their being obliged frequently to adopt that position.

b. " Mr. Cunningham " an eminent naturalist and explorer; the discoverer of Darling Downs, the Botanist of New S. Wales; his death has already been mentioned in Sir T. Mitchell's Travels; he was murdered by the Natives.

c. " Dr. Leichhardt, " another persevering Naturalist, who has, in his zeal for discovery and science, been so long absent that fears are entertained of his safety.

d. " New Chum, " in opposition to " Old Chum. " The former " cognomen " peculiarizing the newly arrived Emigrant; the latter as a mark of respect attached to the more experienced Colonist.

e. " Hand," synonymous with " Chum;" not elegant appellations, but very significant.

f. " Fist it," a Colonial expression, which may convey to the uninitiated the idea that knives, forks, plates, &c. are unknown in the Bush; such *was*

formerly the case, but the march of improvement has banished this primitive simplicity.

g. "Paramatta," a peculiar tweed, made in the Colony, and chiefly at Paramatta, hence the name.

h. "Runs," land claimed by the Squatter as sheep-walks, open, as nature left them, without any improvement from the Squatter.

i. "Gin," the term applied to the native female Blacks; not from any attachment to the spirit of that name, but from some (to me) unknown derivation.

ERRATA.

Page 39	6th line from bottom		*for* dug *read* dry.
43	2nd line from top		*for* tremble *read* twinkle.
51	5th	do.	*for* necessary *read* necessarily.
179	9th	do.	*for* Darking *read* Darling.
185	14th	do.	; after Brisbane,
212			*for* Ioomgo *read* Toomgo.
220			*for* Piv *read* Kalgree Piu.
240			*for* Tarjoor *read* Tangoor.
247			*for* or again a broad lake *read* a broad lake ; or again.
250			*for* ; *read* , after revenge.
255			*for* but *read* of.

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